19 Aquila fratmen off the hook in Villa slay

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2002 ★ 48 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 35 ₱15

Only Mayor Tom can smoke at City Hall

BY D. J. MAGALLON AND C. E. FERNANDEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Smoking diminishes the work performance of civil servants in City Hall, but

ONLY/ A16

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL
- Jolina Magdangal looks for Mr. Right
- Hollywood goes to war–well, sort of
- GMA-7 premieres new game show tomorrow

MAGDANGAL

GMA confirms but downplays coup attempts

PLOTTERS were "caught with their pants down," President Macapagal informs the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines on Friday. EDWIN BACASMAS

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND CARLITO PABLO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday confirmed a destabilization plot against her year-old administration but said most of the plotters had been "caught with their pants down."

"I will not give details because the important thing is, these destabilization plots are not working at all," she told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) during a forum in Makati City.

The President refused to "expose" the supposed plotters, saying "we'll just be giving importance to people who will not succeed, anyway."

When pressed, she showed exasperation. "I really don't think we should talk so much about destabilization because to begin with, it's not going to succeed," she said. "Why talk about a non-event?"

The President credited Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) for exposing the plotters.

She said the huge amount of explosives that the Isafp confiscated late last year from the men of Lt. Senior Grade Donn Miraflor were to have been used to mark the anniversary of the bombings on Dec. 30, 2000.

In an interview with radio station dzMM, Eduardo Ermita, the President's adviser on the peace process, said lawmen were looking for leaders of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) to "convince" them to drop their alleged plan to launch "Edsa IV" in time

GMA/ A16

Gloria rating dips; pollster fears apathy

BY CARLITO PABLO

PUBLIC approval for President Macapagal-Arroyo has dropped as most Filipinos felt that their quality of life deteriorated in 2001, Pulse Asia Inc. yesterday said.

Pulse Asia said results of a nationwide survey it conducted last month also showed a "general decline in public approval" for government officials and agencies.

"A dangerous turn toward increasing public apathy regarding political institutions, government agencies and the authorities could be taking place," it said.

The survey was conducted on Dec. 2-19 and covered 1,200 respondents aged 18 and above.

Pulse Asia also reported that 40 percent of the people regarded peace in the country as a most urgent national concern, dislodging national economic recovery (37 per-

GLORIA RATING/ A16

Ramos rebukes associates

BY ROCKY NAZARENO AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

FORMER President Fidel Ramos yesterday publicly rebuked personalities associated with him for being highly critical of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It was the first time Ramos commented on the critical statements of Salvador Enriquez and Linda Montayre of the Philippine Consultative Assembly (PCA) and retired Gen. Fortunato Abat.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Ramos said he had phoned Enriquez, his former budget secretary.

"I talked to Jun Enriquez because he is a friend of mine, and I (told) him, 'Please do not involve me in what you are doing. Why don't you just stick to your job as adviser and consultant of (Quezon City) Mayor (Feliciano) Belmonte? That's a good place for you,'" Ramos said.

He said he had asked Enriquez to convey this request to Montayre

RAMOS/ A16

Release me, Misuari asks high court

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC, TJ BURGONIO AND JULIET JAVELLANA

SAYING his incarceration at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, was "utterly illegal," detained Moro leader Nur Misuari yesterday pleaded with the high tribunal to immediately release him.

In a petition for habeas corpus, Misuari claimed that his continued detention allegedly violated his constitutional rights because it "is not by reason of a commitment order from a competent court but by executive fiat."

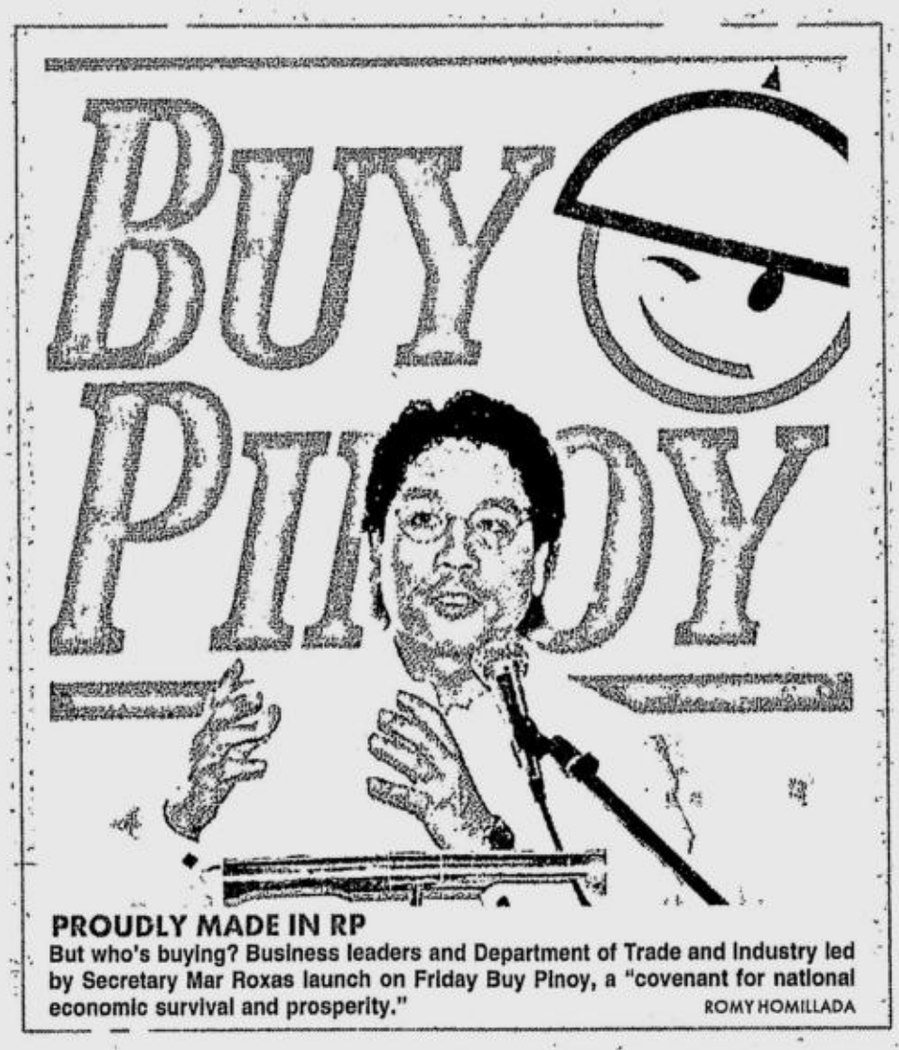
The petition was signed by Misuari on Jan. 10 but was filed with the Supreme Court yesterday by his counsels—Arthur Lim, Macapanton Abbas Jr. and Salvador Panelo.

The habeas corpus rule bars the detention of any person without valid cause such as the filing of a criminal case with a competent court. The rule explicitly mandates that arresting officers should inform the accused of the nature of the charges being leveled against him or her.

Misuari claimed he was not formally informed of the rebellion

RELEASE/ A16

LOVE Misuari Movement stages a rally in front of the Quiapo mosque on Friday to demand, among other things, to grant the Moro leader access to the media. On his 5th day in detention, Misuari has yet to be seen or heard by the public. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



PROUDLY MADE IN RP
But who's buying? Business leaders and Department of Trade and Industry led by Secretary Mar Roxas launch on Friday Buy Pinoy, a "covenant for national economic survival and prosperity." ROMY HOMILLADA

19 Aquila fratmen off the hook in Villa slay

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

EXPECTING a public outcry against the decision, the Court of Appeals yesterday acquitted 19 of the 26 fraternity members who were convicted in the 1991 hazing death of neophyte Leonardo "Lenny" Villa.

In exonerating the 19, the court said there was no evidence of conspiracy among the leaders of Aquila Legis, the Ateneo law fraternity, and that the fatality was a willing victim.

The ruling modified a 1993 lower court decision by setting aside the conspiracy angle. However, the appellate court upheld the conviction of two fraternity leaders and downgraded the charges against four others.

Anti-crime crusaders quickly denounced the decision as "unfortunate" and hinted at "influence peddling" by fraternity alumni, who include respected members of the judiciary.

Dante Jimenez, chair and president of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, said the VACC was saddened by the decision and that the appeals court should be able to explain reports of influence peddling regarding the case.

"We pity Villa's family, who still has to find justice after all these years," Jimenez said.

But the court said that it "will never be swayed by the public outcry for revenge."

"After a careful review of the facts of the case, it is our view and we so hold that no conspiracy was sufficiently proven from the evidence presented by the prosecution," said a 23-page decision promulgated on Thursday.

The decision was written by Associate Justice Eulogo G. Versola and was concurred in by Associate Justices Rodrigo V. Cosico and Eliezer R. de los Santos.

Acquitted were Nelson Victorino, Eulogio Sabban, Joseph Lledo, Etienne Guerrero, Michael Musngi, Jonas Karl Perez, Ronan de Guzman, Paul Angelo Santos, Antonio General, Jaime Maria Flores III, Dalmacio Lim Jr.,

19 AQUILA/ A16

LENNY VILLA: Justice after 11 years? Case closed?

Gloria disowns Bobi on SMC interim accord

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

DO PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and her spokesperson need an "information clearinghouse" between them?

The President yesterday contradicted Rigoberto Tiglao's disclosure of an "interim agreement" between the government and San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

With Tiglao a seat away from her, Ms Macapagal denied there was a deal with Cojuangco.

"The interim agreement is not related to San Miguel. It is related to the use of the fruits of the coco levy fund while the principal is still under litigation. So they're two different things," she said in a forum with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal insisted that the agreement did not involve SMC, where the government has sequestered the 27-percent stake acquired using coco levy funds.

GLORIA DISOWNS/ A16

Second FRONT PAGE

3 dead, 6 hurt in Abu attack

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three persons were killed and six wounded when suspected Abu Sayyaf rebels opened fire Friday on a passenger jeep owned by the governor of Basilan, officials said.

An Associated Press report quoting Basilan police chief Bansali Jabarani said the two-year-old daughter of a soldier and the wife of a jail guard were killed when about 30 suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen attacked the jeep in Barangay Atong-Atong, Lantawan town, at around 7 a.m.

Col. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade in Basilan, said the wounded in the Isabela City-bound vehicle included a soldier and two militiamen.

Most of the victims were on their way to market when the ambush occurred about 50 kilometers from Lantawan.

Esperon said the bandits positioned themselves by the road and fired on the passing vehicle.

Killed were Mylene Garcia Abubakar, Heidi Badilles and toddler Amy Gay Badilles.

Wounded were militiamen Sagap Sali and Nur Ramon, a Pfc. Badilles, Nasser Abubakar, Mohammad Salima and jeepney driver Norman Kocos.

Esperon said the military suspects the bandits were part of the group of Isnilon Japilon and Ramsy Hadji Salih. "We are now pursuing this group," he said.

Japilon's group is holding Lamitan nurse Ediborah Yap, who was abducted on June 2 last year.

Officials initially reported the ambush as the result of a family feud but Jabarani said the attack on the jeep owned by Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar was led by Hamsiraji Sali, an Abu Sayyaf commander.

The governor was not in the jeep at the time of the attack.

Aside from Yap, another faction of the Abu Sayyaf is believed holding American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham hostage. The Burnhams have been held since May 2001 when they were seized at a Palawan resort.

The extremist group is thought to have several hundred fighters on Basilan and the nearby island of Jolo. In contrast, the Philippine military has thrown at least 5,000 troops into the hunt for the terrorist group, which has links to international terror suspect Osama bin Laden.

US military personnel are currently preparing to widen a training regime to help the Philippine military fight the Abu Sayyaf. ***AP, Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

US military steps up operations vs Sayyaf

UNITED States forces are gearing up for an expanded effort to train, equip and assist the Philippine military to fight Muslim extremists operating in the country's south, a US Pentagon spokesperson said Thursday.

Some two dozen American military personnel have been in the country since November laying the groundwork for the arrival of a larger US contingent that will work with the Philippines' Southern Command, said Lt. Commander Jeff Davis.

"We are gearing up to do more with our training program, but that has not commenced yet," Davis said, adding that US military officials were meeting with the Philippine government to work out the details.

The American effort in the Philippines stems from a US pledge made by President George W. Bush to President Macapagal-Arroyo during a November meeting to give her country's military assistance and training to combat terrorism.

The training program is part of a larger package in which the US will also provide warplanes, debt relief and trade assistance to the Philippines.

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Force of the Philippines chief of staff, said Wednesday US military advisers would be allowed to join frontline Filipino troops fighting the Abu Sayyaf.

The statement was the first time a senior military official had said US forces would be allowed on the frontlines. Previously, visiting US experts had stayed in army camps. Under Philippine law, foreign troops are not allowed to join combat in the country.

More than 100 US soldiers are expected to arrive to assist troops fighting Abu Sayyaf, the Philippine government has said.

"I don't think there's anything mysterious about it at all," said US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld at a press conference with visiting Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill.

"We all know the Philippine government has been very seriously attempting to deal with terrorists on one or two islands there, that they have some hostages that have been taken over time, some of whom have been killed, some of whom, I believe, may have been released. But some are still held, including some Americans," he said.

Rumsfeld declined to comment on whether US forces will become directly involved in operations against the Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim extremist group that has engaged in kidnappings of foreigners and has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist group.

American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap continue to be held hostage by the group.

Davis, however, said the US mission would be to support the Philippine military rather than engage directly in combat.

"Our belief is (that) the Philippine armed forces when properly trained, maintained and assisted are capable of carrying out this war on terrorism on their own," he said.

A Filipino official, meantime, has asked Malacañang to rush the drafting of the "rules of engagement" that will govern the actions of US military personnel who are deployed in Mindanao.

In a press statement, Sen. Ralph Recto asked the Palace to draft the "parameters" of the US troops' stay in the country. ***Rocky Nazareno, AFP, AP***

Cardeño snubs police summons on Baron slay

POLICE Supt. Rafael Cardeño yesterday snubbed an official summons by investigators probing the killing of Baron Alexander Cervantes, thereby bolstering a police theory that he may have been involved in the murder.

Only Cardeño, the chair of the Young Officers Union, failed to appear among the group of police and military officers invited to shed light on the killing.

Supt. Diosdado Valeroso, retired Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig and retired Col. Romeo Lim have all reported to and been questioned at the Southern Police District.

Retired Gen. Edgardo Abenina, the former chief of the Land Transportation Commission, is set to appear on Monday.

Had he shown up yesterday, Cardeño would have gotten an opportunity to clear his name, said Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, the SPD chief.

Police are looking into the angle, one among several, that Cervantes may have been killed as a result of his supposed "rift" with Cardeño.

Cardeño was relieved of his position as Abenina's special assistant at the Land Transportation Office after he was tagged as the instigator of an alleged destabilization plot.

Before he was killed, Cervantes exposed the alleged widespread anomalies at the LTO during Abenina's watch.

Investigators have summoned Abenina to give his side on the reported anomalies and share any information he had about the reported infighting at the two soldiers' organizations, the YOU and the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa.

Gutierrez yesterday said he and his men would also invite for questioning media personalities whose names were found in Cervantes' cellular phone log.

Cervantes may have given vital information to these media personalities before he was killed, Gutierrez said. ***Christian Esguerra***

'Agaton' threatens to rough up South

TROPICAL depression "Agaton" moved closer to Eastern Samar and Surigao City yesterday as it continued to threaten the Visayas and Northern Mindanao, weather forecasters said.

Pagasa said Agaton was expected to be 180 kms. east southeast of Guiuan in Eastern Samar and 210 kms east northeast of Surigao City by morning today.

Public Storm Signal No. 1 remains in effect over the Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao which were expected to experience rains and winds of up to 55 kph beginning late yesterday.

The Bicol region will also experience widespread rains with occasional gusty winds, the bureau said.

Residents of Agusan, Surigao, Samar and Leyte provinces were warned against possible flooding and landslides.

In Metro Manila, residents woke up to another chilly morning yesterday as temperature dropped to 17 degrees Celsius, the second lowest this month.

The lowest recorded was 16.7 degrees on Jan. 5. Nilo Millanes, Pagasa weather forecaster, said cold temperatures could last till February. ***Gerald G. Lacuarta***

Ogami probe ordered

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to investigate Japanese businessman Genta Ogami in connection with the closure of Unitrust Banking Corp.

In a one-page directive, Perez ordered Director Reynaldo Wycoco to investigate Ogami and the other bank officials who could be held responsible for the bank's closure.

A small thrift bank with about P700 million in assets, Unitrust Bank declared a bank holiday on Jan. 5 following a P138-million bank run and resignation of its officers and employees. ***Michael Lim Ubac***

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Militant groups now seek to oust Gloria

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

MILITANT groups which took part in the Edsa 2 people power uprising last year have virtually declared war on President Macapagal-Arroyo, vowing to work with "other legal and democratic forces to replace (her) as president by 2004 and, if conditions call for it, even before that."

But the groups, led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, a broad coalition of organizations identified with the Left, said they would not support a civilian-military junta as a replacement for Ms Macapagal, as proposed by certain personalities closely identified with former President Fidel Ramos.

They also rejected the hand of reconciliation extended by the President to the Edsa 2 groups which have become her harshest critics.

The President has turned to "her generals, the elite and her United States sponsors for support with a heavy price on the nation," said Bayan secretary-general Teodoro Casiño at a press conference yesterday.

Bayan leaders said militant organization will not be joining the Malacañang-led official Edsa 2 celebrations on Jan. 20 but would hold simultaneous demonstrations nationwide to be highlighted by a reenactment of the "people's march" to Mendiola Bridge where a big rally will be held at 12 noon.

Bayan will also be joining other groups in a "Reunion of People Power 2 Heroes" on Jan. 16 from 6 to 10 p.m. at La Salle Greenhills.

Joining Casiño were, among others, Nanay Mameng Deunida of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap, Elmer Labog of Kilusang Mayo Uno, Bayan Muna Reps. Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran, Migrante International's Maita Santiago, Jim Fernando of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Karapatan's Marie Hilao Enriquez, Rev. Raymundo Gelloagan and Raymond Palatino of the National Union of Students of the Philippines.

Wilson Fortaleza, president of the militant Sanlakas belonging to another faction of the Left, announced his group's plan to hold mass actions beginning on Monday, but stressed that the planned protests had nothing to do with the rumored plots to topple the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

"Enough of the rumors about coup and destabilization plots. The people's issues must be the focus of discussion in the Edsa celebration," Fortaleza said.

He said another people power uprising was not going to happen anytime soon.

As far as Malacañang is concerned, however, the first-year anniversary of Edsa 2 will be a "major event" and it wants as many people as possible to gather at the now historic Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong.

"We want the 'investors' in the effort to have an accountable government to go back to Edsa. We're hoping as many people as possible will be there," said Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, who is the program committee chair of the event.

The theme of the commemoration is "Isabuhay ang Edsa: Matapat na Pamamahala, Tugon sa Kahirapan."

Soliman stressed that the large gathering planned for Jan. 20, the day President Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath, was not in conflict with an earlier Palace announcement that the event would be a solemn one to be marked by gatherings and masses in urban poor communities.

Sources said Ms Macapagal last Thursday gave the go-ahead for a show of force after she was assured by her officials that the alleged destabilization plots had been contained.

The Palace is looking at mobilizing some 300,000 people on Jan. 20.

The Edsa celebrations will start on Jan. 16, culminating on Jan. 20 at the Edsa Shrine where the President will deliver a major policy speech.

This will be followed by another four-day event, from Feb. 21 to 25, to commemorate the first People Power uprising, which ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Bayan's spokesperson, Renato Reyes Jr., said that the people's choices cannot be limited to Ms Macapagal and a civilian-military junta.

"There is the third and better option of exposing and opposing the Arroyo regime and thereby advancing People Power. This would include frustrating Arroyo's shameless bid for 2004 and, if conditions permit and the people so decide, remove Arroyo from power even before that," Reyes said. *With reports from Carlito Pablo and Agnes Donato*

GMA asks media to cut reporting on kidnappings

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, battling to rid the Philippines of its reputation as Asia's kidnap capital, asked the press yesterday to refrain from writing about unsolved and ongoing abductions.

Arroyo said the reporting of "live" kidnapping cases could jeopardize the lives of the victims as well as hamper police rescue operations.

At least 88 kidnappings were recorded in the first 11 months of 2001, with 18 foreigners among the victims.

At least three of the foreigners remain unaccounted for, including US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham who are held by Muslim Abu Sayyaf guerrillas in Basilan.

A separate Muslim group, called the Pentagon, is holding Italian Roman Catholic priest Giuseppe Pierantoni in Mindanao.

But most of the victims are members of the ethnic Chinese community.

Arroyo, speaking before foreign correspondents, insisted that "we have neutralized the rash of kidnappings" with the help of the Filipino-Chinese community.

She also stressed that the Philippines "is a free-wheeling democracy, where freedom of speech is really respected, to the point of license."

Arroyo said the kidnapping problem was reined in after she vowed to carry out the executions of death row inmates convicted of kidnappings.

She also vowed to follow through with a pledge to the Filipino-Chinese community to reorganize the police, bring in foreign experts to train them, set up a reward system for information on kidnappers and to allowing the arming of civilians in certain neighborhoods that are prone to kidnappings. *AFP*

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By: HECTOR S. DE LEON

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A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE

"For you will surely have a future, and your hope will not be cut off." (Prov 23:18)

A NEW YEAR.... SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

We are assailed by the same old problems.

· Politicians looking after their own interests rather than the country's.
· Unrest among uncivil society; small, loud groups making noises to promote self-interest or the agenda of politicians manipulating them.
· Media sensationalizing bad news and making us all feel how hopeless things are.
· Saber-rattling by some in the military, scaring away business and everyone else to inaction.
· Pious posturing by those charged with serious crimes against the people.

WE DO NOT DESERVE THIS. WE NEED A BREAK.

LET US START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT.
LET US RECOGNIZE THAT A NEW YEAR
BRINGS A NEW OPPORTUNITY,
AND A NEW OPPORTUNITY GIVES US HOPE.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?

· Let us join hands in rebuilding our country through honest hard work. No short cuts.
· Let us not manipulate, abuse or oppress the poor. Rather, let every person make a difference in the life of the poor by providing him skills, education and opportunities to help himself.
· Let us support the entrepreneurial spirit of the Filipino. Design, produce, promote and patronize Filipino products.
· Let us support and cooperate with every honest and progressive local and national public official and be vigilant against those who remain corrupt and ineffective.
· Let us not look to selfish interests but to the good of our people and nation.
  - For media: NO to sensationalism, YES to truth and good news.
  - For the armed forces: NO to power grabs, YES to professionalism, defense of the constitution, and protection of the people.
  - For politicians: NO to political posturing and Old Boy networks, YES to integrity and selfless service to the people.
  - For business: NO to profit at all costs, YES to social responsibility to the poor and the environment.
  - For every Filipino: NO to constant griping and blaming others, YES to providing solutions and living out our obligations as good citizens.

A NEW YEAR. WE CAN MAKE IT DIFFERENT.

OUR VISION:
ONE NATION UNDER GOD
THAT WILL BE A LIGHT TO THE WORLD.

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord, and I will change your lot" (Jer 29:11-14)

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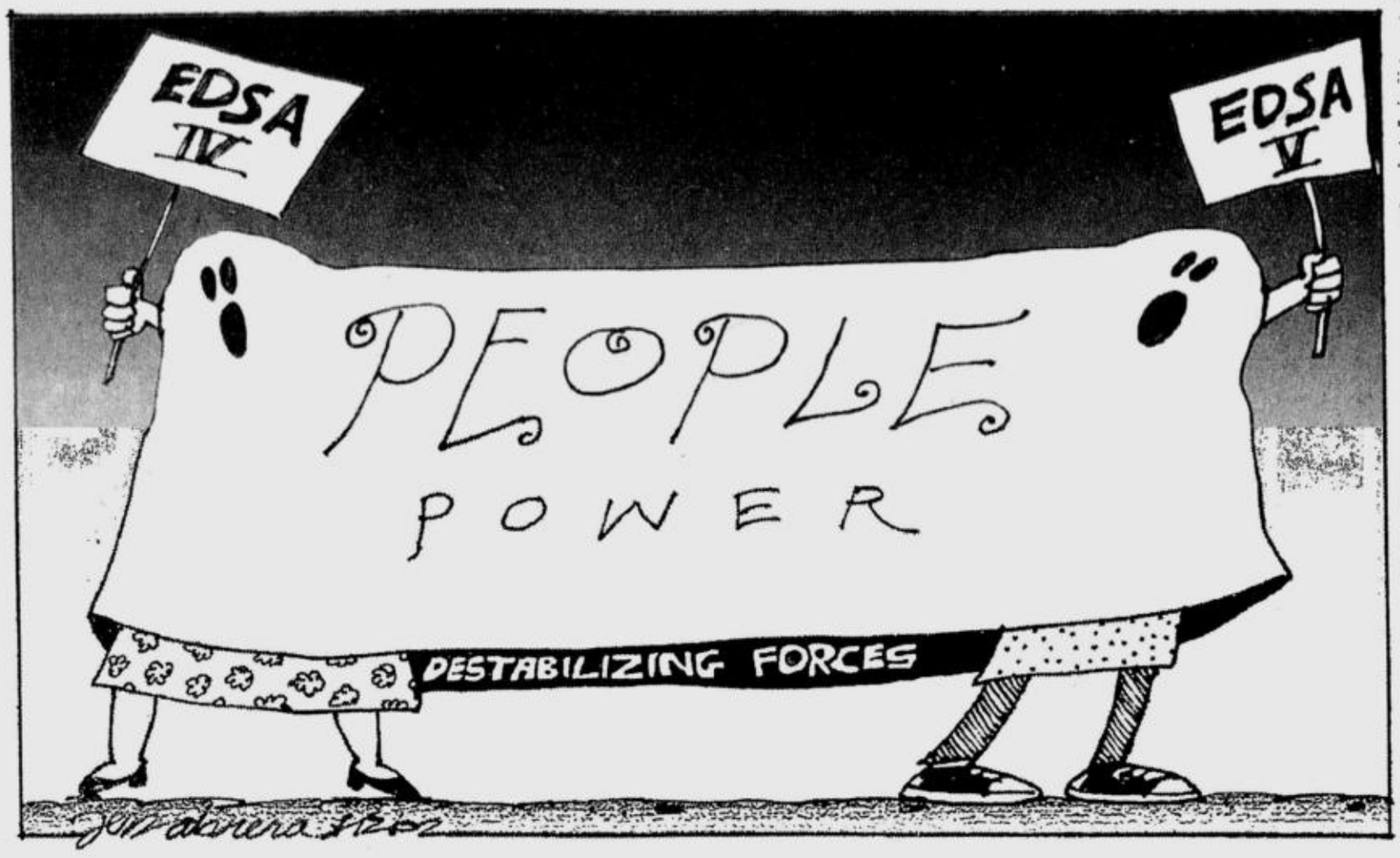


Japan's counteroffensive

EDITORIAL

JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi launched in Manila this week an economic offensive to line up the original five members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations behind a broad Japan-led free-trade zone to counter the growing economic presence of China in Southeast Asia.

While in Manila last Wednesday, Koizumi unveiled his proposal seeking a comprehensive Japan-Asean economic alliance intended to maintain Japan's historic economic dominance in the region. Although bilateral issues were raised in Manila, such as increased Japanese official development assistance (ODA) in Mindanao, Koizumi's Asean swing had a larger objective. It is in response to the threat of China's initiatives to forge a free-trade zone with Asean economies.

Koizumi's free-trade plan envisages the inclusion of Australia and New Zealand, giving it a wider coverage than China's proposal for a free-trade zone with the 10-nation Asean unveiled by Chinese Premier Zhu Rongi in Brunei last November. In the aftermath of the Chinese plan, China and Asean have agreed to develop a free-trade area within 10 years. Japan's complacency has been shaken by this development, as well as the admission of China into the World Trade Organization and Beijing's aggressive trade diplomacy and promotion in the region.

Significantly, Japan used the Philippines as the springboard for its catch-up economic counteroffensive, retreading the 1941 military offensive of Japan in Southeast Asia. The Philippines was one of the first Southeast Asian nations attacked by Japan in 1942. From Manila, Koizumi flew to Kuala Lumpur en route to Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore, his last stop where he is expected to sign the first free-trade agreement among Asean members, as a model for a regional free-trade plan.

Even before China's accession to the WTO, its dynamic and expanding economy, which is posting the highest growth rates in Asia Pacific despite the global economic slowdown, has been flooding Southeast Asian markets with cheap goods. This can only fuel worries in Tokyo over losing its post-war economic dominance in a region where Japan has traditionally played the lead role in economic aid and trade expansion.

The growing economic Chinese presence in Southeast Asia makes Asean an important theater of Japanese-Chinese economic rivalry. Concerns in Tokyo over China's economic penetration in Southeast Asia have also been fanned by years of Japanese economic stagnation, disarray in the banking sector and a weak yen.

Asean is ripe for free-trade arrangements. Koizumi's swing to the original Asean five comes at a time when Asean met its deadline for six Asean economies—the original five plus Brunei—to reduce tariffs on most goods traded among themselves to 0.5 percent. According to Asean Secretary General Rodolfo Severino, the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) has become a reality, with 95.7 percent of the region's trade in goods being assessed tariffs of less than 5 percent. Severino said the average tariff rate for intra-Asean trade is now down to a minimal 3.2 percent, compared to 11.4 percent in 1993, when the Afta process began.

Efforts by Japan and China to entice Asean toward a broader regional free-trade zone have been facilitated by the so-called "Asean Plus Three" meeting, a mechanism where Asean members engage Japan, China and South Korea in expanding economic relations.

The efforts by China and Japan to woo Asean ought to be an opportunity for Asean to secure advantageous terms, such as opening up the Japanese and Chinese markets to Asean goods. Alternatively, Asean, with nearly 400 million people, offers a large market for both Chinese and Japanese goods.

China's initiatives toward establishing a free-trade area with Asean face a political obstacle: the region's wariness over China's territorial intentions, highlighted by disputes between China and some Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, over territories in the South China Sea. On the other hand, there is a lingering fear in Southeast Asia over Japan's political and military power.

Koizumi's offensive sends the message that Japan is not about to yield its economic dominance in the region to China by default.

What to do with Nur Misuari?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ONE of the incredible ideas I have heard about Nur Misuari is that he should be granted amnesty. The brainstorm came from Sen. John Osmeña. He says that such a step would save the Philippine government the trouble of prosecuting the renegade rebel and the expense of providing for his keep if he is convicted. It would also keep his MNLF followers at bay.

The other unbelievable report is that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez is urging Misuari to accept exile as an alternative to his prosecution and possible conviction for several offenses, particularly the aborted rebellion he is alleged to have incited and led. If that report is true, then it is another inanity, and more so because it comes from the top legal officer of the executive department. I hope Nani will deny it.

Even first year law students know that amnesty is granted only for political offenses and is usually addressed to classes or even communities of persons, like the Huks during the '50s. It is unlike pardon, which is available for all other offenses and is usually given to particular individuals, like the notorious Norberto Manero. Amnesty may apply to Misuari and his followers for their failed uprising, but not for his alleged malversation of millions of public funds during his tenure as ARMM governor.

Exile is not prescribed under our existing laws as a punishment for crime. If decreed for this purpose, it will in effect be a pardon intended to relieve the grantee of the penalties imposed upon him for his offense. As applied to Misuari, it will be a premature and invalid act because pardon can be granted under the Constitution only after the grantee's "conviction by final judgment." Misuari has yet to be tried and convicted. In that event, his sentence will be final only if he does not appeal or his appeal is subsequently withdrawn or dismissed.

The Supreme Court has on many occasions invalidated pardons unknowingly granted by the President of the Philippines to convicts whose cases were still on appeal. If an appellant in a criminal case is assured of executive clemency, he must first withdraw his appeal to qualify for the promised pardon, which can be granted only after his conviction by final judgment. Withdrawal of the appeal will make the judgment final.

The President can absolve a person of criminal responsibility through the grant of executive clemency, either by pardon or amnesty. Amnesty granted to Misuari, assuming its validity, may relieve him of the crime of rebellion but not of other common crimes like malversation. This will not be extinguished by the amnesty. The government may still prosecute him for this offense and hold him criminally and civilly liable for the amount he is claimed to have misappropriated.

If President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo does not choose to act against Misuari for his alleged malversation, she may be condoning that crime despite the massive evidence the government (principally the Commission on Audit) reportedly has against him. To repeat, she cannot do this without complying with the constitutional limitations of pardon or amnesty, if the latter is indeed applicable to the non-political offense of malversation.

When Ms Macapagal took over the presidency of the Republic last year, she solemnly swore to preserve and defend its Constitution and execute its laws. Among these laws are the Revised Penal Code defining and punishing malversation, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and the Plunder Law. These laws remain in our statute books and cannot be ignored or repealed by the President of the Philippines through a refusal to enforce them in proper cases.

There is the theory that if the chief executive sincerely believes that a certain law is unconstitutional, he can simply disregard it on the ground that an unconstitutional law is no law at all, conferring no rights and imposing no duties. The better view is that it is not for the President to determine the validity of a law because this is a question exclusively addressed to the courts of justice. A contrary opinion would allow him not only to negate the will of the legislature but also to encroach on the prerogatives of the judiciary.

The President can, of course, pardon any person convicted under such law for he would be asserting a power expressly conferred upon him by the Constitution. In nullifying the effects of the law, he would not be intruding into the domain of the political departments in violation of the doctrine of separation of powers.

It is becoming increasingly clear, from the acts—or is it inaction?—of some of our high officials, beginning with President Macapagal, that Misuari has become a pesky problem that they would rather get rid of than boldly confront. They are handling him with kid gloves lest he blow his broken bugle and rally his ragged recruits to total war against the soldiers of the Republic. The government does not seem to have much confidence in our Armed Forces, which have so far failed to subdue even the outnumbered Abu Sayyaf, let alone the NPA, the NDF, the MILF, and other dissident groups.

Treating Misuari like a celebrity can only encourage others to defy the government for its timidity. The Republic could be the object of contempt and derision by potential outlaws who, if captured, will expect to be coddled like the failed insurgent now ensconced in the comfortable cottage formerly reserved for Joseph Estrada. Some of Misuari's imitators may be lining up to enjoy the government's favors by simply brandishing the remnants of their tattered ranks. That bravado should be enough to petrify Malacañang with holy terror.

What we need is not a commander in chief whose vacillations and timorousness will only enfeeble the country to defeatism and surrender, even to the likes of the bandits in Mindanao. What we need is bold and decisive action from President Macapagal that will galvanize the Armed Forces to gallantry and victory against the enemies of the Republic, including Misuari's ragtag rebels.

Political posturing

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

ALMOST three months after the first Treasury auction of 10-year, zero-coupon bonds, the suspicion that some anomalies must have occurred (How else, it is argued, could a non-government organization, no matter how large, pull off a P1.3-billion financial coup?) still fills the air. That all parties to the transaction benefited (a positive-sum game result) is almost immaterial, to their way of thinking, because surely the government and the business institutions involved should have profited more, and the NGO shouldn't have profited so much.

Why the concern over the profits of a major bank is beyond understanding. More understandable is the concern about whether the government should have profited more, corollary to which is the question of whether the NGO (CODE-NGO) got special treatment in the form of information that was not available to the other bidders.

I talked to National Treasurer Sergio Edeza at great length, and his statements, plus the documentation he provided, would convince an objective person that while CODE-NGO indeed tried its darnedest to get special treatment from the Treasury (it was pushing for a negotiated contract rather than an auction, for example, citing precedents during the Estrada administration for its request), the Treasury did not give in to the pressure.

Furthermore, Edeza claims that if anything, the other government securities dealers were provided more detailed information and explanations for this auction than for the others (it being the first of its kind), and given a greater lead time to digest it at that. Nevertheless, should one of the losing bidders have a different perspective, and think that it had been placed at a disadvantage, I would be happy to hear their side—although no complaints have been voiced so far.

There is also the question of the propriety of CODE-NGO's applying all the pressure it could muster to achieve its objectives, and the corollary question (already answered) of whether Finance Secretary Lito Camacho gave his sister, CODE-NGO head Marissa Reyes, undue advantage (he didn't—he wasn't even involved).

Did CODE-NGO take full advantage of its position, meaning the fact that it was the secretariat of Kompil, which was instrumental in the downfall of the Estrada administration, and that it has close ties to government officials such as Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, and Civil Service Chief Karina David (both former CODE-NGO chairs), Presidential Management Staff Secretary Vicky Garchitorena, National Anti-Poverty Commission Chair Ging Deles (Kompil leaders), and DBP board member Dan Songco?

Yes, of course. That is what lobbying is all about, which is part of public choice or public decision-making. Except that businessmen who try to influence government decisions do it to improve their private financial positions, while none of the P1.3 billion gain of CODE-NGO will accrue to any of its officers, either now or in the future.

The board members of the foundation created to disburse the funds (the PEACe Fund, if memory serves) are not even given any honoraria, and in any case, the board members who are also CODE-NGO members will be phased out.

As I said previously, it would have been much better if Marissa Reyes had irrevocably resigned her position when her brother became finance secretary—but at least she inhibited herself from participating in any discussions with government after that. It would also have been better if its national coordinator, Dan Songco, had resigned after he was named to the DBP board. But no one is perfect, and these lapses have not created irreparable harm.

That two of the first three projects approved by the PEACe Fund are connected to the Ayala Foundation (associated with Garchitorena) and CO Multiversity (associated with Soliman) is unfortunate. I understand that CSC Chair David, who headed CODE-NGO for 10 years, was unhappy, to say the least. But it turns out that it was a case of the PEACe Fund trying to start with a bang rather than the organizations of Garchitorena and Soliman taking advantage of their positions. In any case, there seem to be a reappraisal and renegotiations going on.

In other words, mistakes have been made, and they are being corrected. And the fact remains that that zero-coupon auction was beneficial to the country rather than self-serving.

But all the foregoing notwithstanding, including my column last week, one can expect all kinds of posturing during next week's confirmation hearings on Finance Secretary Camacho's appointment and the reported congressional hearings on the zero-coupon bond auction. It is a foregone conclusion that the game plan is to embarrass the Macapagal administration in general and Camacho in particular. Not to mention media mileage. And if the truth be stretched and distorted in order to achieve the objective, *no problemo*.

All this, supposedly in the national interest, or in aid of legislation. What crap. When Argentina's latest president, Eduardo Duhalde, said, "We have a political class that is a piece of s—t, and I include myself in that," he might as well have been describing the Philippine situation—which, considering where Argentina is now, should give all of us, including our politicians, much food for thought.

GMA to grace Time cover on Jan. 21?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

POLITICAL enemies of President Macapagal may be working very hard to project an unstable scenario for her administration, thanks largely to the media, as the first anniversary of her assumption of power draws near, but it appears that she's still winning the perception game. For instance, various funds for investment in development projects are coming into the country from abroad, notably those of the Lehman Brothers and Cerberus, while the country's recent $750-million global bond float in the New York market was snapped up by investors—oversubscribed, in fact. Side by side with this was the first "stable" outlook rating in two years that the country got from the ratings agency Fitch, which lauded our "remarkable resilience" in the face of adverse external factors such as the terrorist bombings in the United States and our firm commitment to fiscal discipline and reforms.

All these are indications that the administration is projecting stability abroad and that various corporations are ready to give a vote of confidence in this country, despite the grim efforts of the enemies of the state to project a picture of instability and chaos. All patriotic Filipinos have to reject these enemies of the state.

* * *

It's a perception game, and apparently President Macapagal is winning it abroad—if not here. I have it on good authority that she will make it to the cover of Time magazine on Jan. 21, in time for her first anniversary in office. The report is that she'll land on the cover of the Asian edition, but there's also a possibility that she'll make it to the United States, European and African editions. At times there are different covers for the various Time editions in a given week, but if GMA lands on all, if not most, that would be quite a coup for the Philippines. A high-powered team from Time has finished all the interviews, some of which were said to have been most candid on GMA's part. The Time team is now working on the cover story, which, I understand, is going to be quite upbeat generally.

* * *

It has been noted many times that we Filipinos have this psychological flaw that makes us want to disparage ourselves and complain about how bad things are. On the other hand, foreigners appear to have more confidence in the country. This was what I gathered from Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona the other evening in Malacañang, after the official dinner tendered by the President and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo for visiting Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. I queried the Vice President about his department's perception of things, and he cited, among other things, the perception given to him by foreign diplomats during the traditional vin d'honneur in the Palace on New Year's Day.

Guingona said the foreign envoys told him that they feel and see that things are now quite different from the way they were in the previous regime, and they like what they are seeing. The envoys recalled to him that in the previous New Year, for instance, the vin d'honneur was so perfunctory, with then President Estrada leaving immediately after the customary exchange of toasts. Now, said Guingona, with the Arroyos going around to greet their guests, the members of the diplomatic community felt good about lingering around and exchanging pleasantries. He also said the diplomats were happy about the unity being shown by the President and ex-President Ramos.

* * *

The air-conditioning unit at Heroes Hall in Malacañang was turned off at the request of Koizumi, who was not feeling well during the official dinner last Wednesday, Jan. 9 and hence the hall was quite warm. But that only served to complement the warmth of the reception accorded to him by his hosts and the guests, who gave him a big applause for his birthday. Koizumi, who is often called the "Richard Gere of Japanese politics," (there is indeed a similarity with the American actor especially in the hairstyle, *singkit nga lang si* Koizumi) had turned 60 the day before and President Macapagal noted that it is a "jubilee year according to Japanese tradition" for her distinguished guest. The Bayanihan dancers, who provided the cultural fare after dinner, brought out a birthday cake for Koizumi and then led the audience in singing "Happy Birthday." The Japanese leader, who enjoys a very high popularity rating in his country despite the economic woes, seemed to relish it.

* * *

The heart of Japanese aid to the Philippines is its official development assistance (ODA). Various foreign countries extend ODA to the Philippines, but Japan contributes two-thirds of the total ODA received here. Significantly, the Japanese ODA was not reduced last year despite Japan's economic woes, which include a record 5.5 percent rate of joblessness (which is expected to hit 6.3 percent by March 2003), the crisis in the banking sector and a rise in bankruptcies. President Macapagal indicated her appreciation for the non-reduction of the ODA when she said at the dinner that she recognized the "hard decisions" that the Japanese people were making, even as Japan was adjusting to world recession.

* * *

Because of the unprecedented hard times Japan is experiencing, it's understandable that its concern is to make the ODA more palatable to the Japanese people who have to pay the taxes to support it. As Tsuneo Nishida, director general of the Economic Cooperation Bureau of Japan's Foreign Ministry explained it, what would make the ODA palatable to the Japanese is if it were to be utilized by the recipient country more efficiently and in a more transparent manner. In previous eras, the ODA was underutilized, because of a combination of factors, such as lack of counterpart funds and ineffective use. The Macapagal administration doubtless recognizes this shortcoming and wants to do a better job, judging from the fact that it has put a Cabinet official, former Appointments Secretary Mai-Mai Jimenez, exclusively to the task of pushing ODA-funded projects.

* * *

At the dinner, I queried Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. John Osmeña about reports that they have enticed two members of the Senate minority to join the majority. Drilon had earlier borrowed a phrase from Osmeña that attracting members is not a "one-way street" as he hinted about "surprise defections" from the minority by Monday, when session resumes. I wanted to know who were these defectors. The two senators grinned sheepishly and quipped, "Loi Estrada and Panfilo Lacson." To which Drilon added with a big smile, "If it's down to one, it's Loi." My hunch, however, is that it will be Sen. Robert Jaworski, whose father-in-law, Sen. Ramon Revilla, a member of the majority, plans to run for governor of Cavite in 2004 when his second term expires.

The gift of self

COMMENTARY

Bernardo V. Lopez

THIS is a true story told by Sr. Raquel Reodica, RVM, who is gifted with the power of healing by the Lord, and about whom I have written many articles.

A very rich couple approached the nun, asking for help. They had a problem with their only daughter who was 25 years old. The rift kept getting worse between child and parents, who didn't know what to do. Perhaps she could help solve the "mystery."

The mother broke the ice. She said they had given their daughter everything. She had gone to the best schools and was well provided. She had all the material comforts money could buy. The mother said they had given her all the love parents could possibly give. They had not been remiss in teaching her the right values. Yet, the daughter kept moving farther and farther away from them.

Knowing the presence of Sister Raquel was crucial and seeing the opportunity get off her chest everything she had kept inside her in the last two decades ever since she was a child, the daughter said her parents indeed gave her everything—except their time and her spiritual needs.

Before she could continue, the father objected angrily. He said they went out for expensive dinners regularly. They gave their two children, a son and daughter, their precious time in spite of their busy schedules.

The daughter was undaunted. Sister Raquel was her shield. Now that the bottle had been uncorked, everything simply flowed out. Pain overcame her fear of her very strict father. She said that during those expensive dinners, all they talked about was the business, interrupted constantly by talking and texting on the cell phone. Son and daughter would simply wink at each other furtively while their parents were lost in conversation over their cell phones.

The conversation was becoming a confrontation between parents and child. The daughter said their home was like a military camp. There were so many rules that she "could no longer breathe."

She said this with so much emotion that the father shifted in his seat. Embarrassed by her brutal frankness, he told her she should not be talking that way in front of the nun.

But the daughter was an erupting volcano. All the pent-up emotions came cascading from her chest. There was no tremor in her voice. Her words came out so brutally simple and bare.

Sister Raquel was the silent observer in the unfolding drama.

Suddenly, tears rolled down the mother's eyes, tears which admitted their folly. She asked, "Why didn't you say so?" All those years, the daughter could not tell her parents what she said in three minutes in front of Sister Raquel.

Both parents suddenly realized, in spite of the father's pride, their mistake. They gave their time, true, but not themselves. They mistook providing every material thing as a manifestation of their love. All this time, they thought they were giving all the love they could possibly offer to their child. Yet, the child found them wanting.

The mother said that all this time, she wanted to be close to her daughter but she did not know how until now. She admitted that she was often busy, but added that she was giving a "high priority" to her relationship with her children.

The realization was like a lightning bolt for both parents—the shock, the initial anger, the internal admission, the tears, then the guilt. The problem of two long decades emerged in a very few precious minutes. In that instant, a protracted problem solved itself by simple frankness. Sister Raquel did not lift a finger. Her presence and the respect she commanded were enough.

Sister Raquel said this type of family problem was so common among people who came to her, especially the rich. But such problems were not a monopoly of the rich, she added. Among the poor, the problem was the same although the circumstances could differ. A father, for example, would spend the mother's earnings from three days of doing laundry in one night out with his *barkada*. Among the poor, it was the material aspect, not the spiritual, that ate into family relationships.

I told Sister Raquel that it seemed to me that a healer did not just heal cancer, lupus, or leukemia or make heart bypasses, unnecessary, like she did.

Sister Raquel talked about a 10-year-old deaf-mute from birth. The child returned after three days with her parents. When she greeted her "Good morning," the child repeated the same two words, and they were the sweetest words her parents had ever heard.

The Lord is kind to many who are suffering, whether physically or spiritually, according to Sister Raquel. Healing relationships are crucial because more than half of people's problems revolve around relationships, not just physical sickness. Suffering also comes from not knowing how to deal with a daughter or a wife. Love is elusive sometimes, even for those who try hard. Children turn to drugs because they feel unloved. Parents impose discipline at the expense of intimacy. Parents do not realize that all this time it is their fault, and children do not talk about it because of fear. They fail to see that you give your self, not just your time; that reaching out is not just providing for material needs.

Sister Raquel says total or "holistic" healing involves healing of both body and spirit. Healing the spirit is a prerequisite to healing the body. A person who cannot forgive may not be healed. A person who has not reconciled may not be healed.

Sister Raquel repeatedly stresses that she is not the healer—the Lord simply uses her hands. She says it is the Lord who requires that one's soul must be ready through forgiveness and reconciliation before He heals one's body.

More and more, Sister Raquel is becoming not just a healer but a family counsellor. There are, she says, just as many who need counsellors to heal families as those who need healers for breast cancer and kidney failure. This is true for both rich or poor, jeepney drivers or CEOs, Filipinos or Americans.

For those who need help, please call 930-3902 or simply go without appointment on Saturdays or Wednesdays, the healing days, to Mother Ignacia Retreat House, 857 Bagumbong Road, Novaliches, Caloocan City. For detailed directions e-mail the following address: eastwind@edsamail.com.ph.

Bernardo V. Lopez is a freelance journalist.

The one thing necessary

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IF you live long enough, you begin to see to whom you owe your virtues and vices.

When we were children, love of books came naturally since there were no television or video games to entertain us. It seems to me now that everyone in the family went around with book in hand. (That may be a slight exaggeration: one brother also enjoyed reading comics despite the jeers of his snooty sisters.)

It was my mother who impressed on me that everything else can be taken from you except what you have learned, and this knowledge can be found in books. But it was not until I reached high school at the Assumption in Herran (it's Pedro Gil today, but since the Assumption Convent and Herran exist only in memory, let them be) and met Mother Rosario when I began to understand the insidious beauty of the written word.

Mother may have been short and slight but as a teacher she was a titan. It was in her Literature classes that we memorized Shakespearean soliloquies and, without realizing it, acquired an understanding of iambic pentameter and blank verse. (You may well ask of what use that is to anybody? And I would have to answer that it's purely for the sheer pleasure of knowledge. It certainly won't earn you a living unless you take an education course.) At the same time we also had to memorize the weekly Sunday Gospel that was as poetic as anything Shakespeare wrote, with a cadence and rhythm that influenced the English bard himself. We learned about atmosphere (Poe's "The Raven" and "Annabelle Lee") and alliteration (Bellock's "Tarantella") and O. Henry's surprise endings. It was she who taught us about haikus.

Without realizing the full extent then of the influence being transmitted, we wrote weekly essays on a variety of subjects chosen by Mother Rosario. Whether it was about a storm or a lazy summer day or a favorite person, we were trained to write an introduction, beginning and an end. Red pencil would encircle a word with a notation like "trite" or "over-used" or "look up meaning." Mother had an unerring ear for the right word and she demanded precision whether with reference to an adjective or a noun. Sentence construction was also a prerequisite, but that training had started in 4th grade with parsing.

Years later I had to write an on-the-spot essay for entrance to graduate school in Washington, D.C. and I said a silent prayer of thanks to Mother Rosario for the training she had given us. It was a breeze.

It is only now that I can imagine the patience she must have needed to correct 40 or 80 essays weekly, year after year, and the dedication this implies. The thoughts and writing styles of 13- and 14-year-olds do not as a rule add up to exciting reading. She was also the adviser for our high school graduation book and again served as its editor.

Years later, reading Jaime de Veyra's "Efemerides Filipinas," I realized that he must have been her father and his stint as Philippine commissioner to Washington must have given his daughter an education that produced a very precise clear accent in her English that belied the fact that she also spoke Spanish and French. (We had other teachers like Mother Blanca whose English betrayed a Spanish underlay, others who spoke with a French accent and still others with the Visayan sing-song.) Mother had a sort of BBC accent.

Nuns then were not encouraged to talk about themselves or their past, so we knew little about their personal lives. As far as we students were concerned, they might as well have been born nuns in their dark violet habits, white cowls and black veils.

Mother Blanca was different in that she would go around with her signature *pay-pay* and was rumored to have danced with the Prince of Wales.

Much as the image of a teacher in medieval-style clothes entranced, the poor nuns must have really suffered from the heat. Vatican II offered some comfort by freeing them from their woolen robes and allowing them to wear cotton with a lesser number of layers. The new look was not however as striking even if it must certainly have been more comfortable.

A change in habit did not diminish the twinkle in Mother's eyes or the width of her smile. It was always disarming.

When we graduated from high school, the nuns wrote dedications in our missals. Let me pass Mother Rosario's choice on to you with the New Year's wish that all of us will find that one thing necessary. It is as true today as when it was written.

"We cannot master everything, taste everything, understand everything, drain every experience to its last dregs. But if we have the courage to let almost everything else go, we will probably be able to obtain the one thing necessary for us whatever it may be.

"Happiness consists in finding out precisely what the one thing necessary may be in our lives, and in gladly relinquishing the rest." (Thomas Merton)

Mother certainly found the one thing necessary. We are told she died in the chapel praying, but then her whole life dedicated to education was a prayer.

Nikki

YOUNGBLOOD

Nonie Tobias

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

SHE came to us on the 2nd day of September 1999, all 2.4 kg of her.

I was in school when I felt a sudden urge to call home, something I rarely did, and I was told that my younger sister had given birth to a beautiful baby girl. I felt oh-so-ecstatic and excited. Now we have a baby in our home, I thought, a baby of our own. I was never really fond of children; they annoy me big time, especially those hyperactive little devils. But this one was different; she was my first "real" niece.

When I went home and saw her little face all bundled up, I couldn't help but cry. I've always been a crybaby, but again, this one was different. I was shedding tears of joy for finally she was here.

She wasn't just an ordinary baby. Tears, anger and pain littered the road to her arrival. My sister had her when she was 18 and her boyfriend from hell (excuse my French) was nowhere to be found. Our parents, especially Mama, were devastated. Our family was deep in a financial crisis then, and Papa was recovering from a stroke which changed him physically, psychologically and emotionally. The last thing our poor parents needed was something like that.

Mama blamed herself for what happened. She felt that she hadn't been a good mother. But those were the times God showed to us how blessed we were for having parents like them.

My sister never heard anything from Papa—Papa who has always been the quiet, reserved type and who never laid a hand on anyone of us his three children.

My sister never heard Mama nag her. Sure, she poured out ill feelings when she learned what happened, but she never raised her voice, never uttered any harsh or accusatory words, never condemned. Mama was there to understand, to accept.

After that sad episode came the period of waiting for the baby, my parents' first *apo*. All our friends and Mama's friends were very excited. We bought maternity dresses, little baby stuff, feeding bottles, etc.

Mama hosted a baby shower attended by her *amigas*, and ever *maabilidad*, she told each of her friends what she should buy for the baby. Ironically, that very same day, my sister gave birth to Maria Nicole Dominique.

Every day after that, the house was always filled with people wanting to take a peek at our little bundle of joy. Everyone noted that she had my sister's nose and lips and Papa's "chaotic" eyebrows (we all have them, by the way).

Nikki's entry into our lives was a blessing in disguise. She lightened up our lives. She was our reason to smile and laugh. She was the reason we wanted to wake up early and go home as soon as we could. She was our source of happiness and hope.

She brought about a transformation in Papa. He smiled, laughed and joked more often.

And there was a transformation in me, too. At that time, I was still getting over being dumped by a boy I had loved with all my heart. Nikki's smile was my source of strength. That smile washed away all the tears and hurt.

I can still remember the first time I held her. I had never held a newborn baby before. My sister was a little anxious that I might drop her or something.

I used to worry about how to become a parent myself, particularly the part where one has to take care of the baby. Now, I don't. Taking care of Nikki gave me that experience I never learned in school. It came to me as naturally as adapting to the smell of UP's comfort rooms.

Everything was going well for all of us, until my sister went back to school for the summer. The very thing that my parents were worried about happened: she and her boyfriend from you-know-where got back together.

This pained them so much but they decided to trust her not to repeat the same mistake again. We welcomed the boyfriend to our home and let him visit his daughter anytime he liked.

Barely two months later, he and my sister told us, to my utter disbelief and disappointment, that they were going to get married because she was pregnant again! In December that year (2000), they got married.

They did it against my parents' wishes, but what could they do? My sister is one of the most determined women I know and she does what she wants.

Of course, Nikki had to go with them. It was a very tearful and painful goodbye. Papa was the saddest person on the planet. After they left, I often caught him looking so forlorn and it pained me so much to see him like that.

For a while, I was mad at my sister and her husband-from-you-know-where. I was so mad at her for making my parents' life so miserable.

It was quite a while before we saw Nikki again. She had grown thinner and seemed uncomfortable with us at first. I guess that was because of the brief separation.

After that, every visit was something we looked forward to and every goodbye was filled with the hope of seeing her again. Mama would tell Papa to look at the brighter side of things. Without Nikki, the house looked immaculate, there were no excess laundry, no extra expenses for milk and diapers and most especially, *walang makulit*. Papa would just smile wryly, amused by Mama's words. We were all aware that it was her defense mechanism. One day, when she heard Nikki's voice over the phone, she broke down in tears. Papa shook his head and smiled knowingly.

Late last year, my sister's mother-in-law called to tell us to get Nikki as soon as possible. Her father had been physically abusing her, whipping her with a leather belt and who knows what else without even thinking which part he would hit.

Papa's lips were trembling as he recounted what he had been told. I immediately retreated to my room and cried. I imagined Nikki's fragile 2-year-old body being beaten up and I couldn't help but cry. My poor, poor niece. How could her father do that to her?

The next day, we fetched Nikki. Mama started crying as soon as her *balae* gave her a blow-by-blow account of what happened. Nikki had bruises all over her body, including the chest. My sister had a bruise on her right eye. The beating had been happening for quite some time, but that was the only time they summoned the courage to tell us.

Nikki, seeing all her things being packed, immediately ran to her mommy and asked, "Mommy, *ba-bye*?" Her mother nodded and the little girl's glass eyes brimmed with tears.

It was a very teary goodbye. Mama hugged my sister tight and told her between sobs to just call us if she wanted to go home. Nikki was actually trying hard not to cry, her lips trembling in the process. Usually if she was separated from her mother, Nikki would scream her lungs out. But this time, she didn't. It was as if she knew what was happening, that we were taking her away from her father and that everything was going to be all right.

That was one of the most dramatic moments in our lives. *Pang* "Maalaala Mo Kaya"!

Now, they're all with us: Nikki, my sister, my second niece Chiqui, plus the *yaya*. Though the mere mention of her daddy sends her into fits of sobbing, Nikki's back to her old happy, hyperactive self. The house always looks like it's been hit by a tornado. She annoys us most of the time, but we love her even more. Even Mama, who used to distance herself from her, grew noticeably fonder. And of course no one is happier than my father—with two *apos* in his care, who cares about the added expenses?

I do believe that it's God's will for us to be a family again. Although the house has been quite noisy for the past few months, our electric bills have doubled and my having a room all to myself was short lived, I don't mind. I have learned so much from this experience. It has made me and my family stronger and tougher. It has made us realize that despite the fact that we don't have much money anymore and probably we are never going to have what we used to have before, we can stay happy because we have each other, the one true thing that allowed us to survive the storms.

Nonie Tobias, 21, is a broadcast communication graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman and works in a leading preneed

Media wasting time on non-issues

I CANNOT understand why the media are giving too much attention to a certain Linda Montayre who has been all over the place saying her piece or rather her script which to me sounds incredible and unbelievable. The sad part is that she has not produced a single piece of evidence to support her wild accusations. Sadder still is that the reputation of those people she has maligned has been irreparably damaged. This person who supposedly leads an organization called the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA) which has two members—herself and Salvador Enriquez—does not deserve media's precious air time.

Another personality on whom the media are wasting their time is Jinggoy Estrada. Only in the Philippines can you find a detainee, charged with plunder, who is able to hold a press conference and even phone interviews broadcast on national TV promoting his movie. I thought that somebody in his predicament would be busy with his legal defense instead of engaging in inanities such as promoting a nonsensical movie like "Walang Iwanan...Peks Man!"

I think that the so-called "tabloidization" of media explains why these people, among others, are polluting the airwaves. Come on guys, give us a break!—**FERDIE T. SIBAL, 18 Green Leaves St., Capitol Green Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

Billed for water that isn't there

WITH THE PRIVATIZATION of water services a few years ago, many people hoped that competence and good service will be brought to a former government agency. But that doesn't seem to be the case with the Maynilad Water Service, if my own experience with the company is any indication.

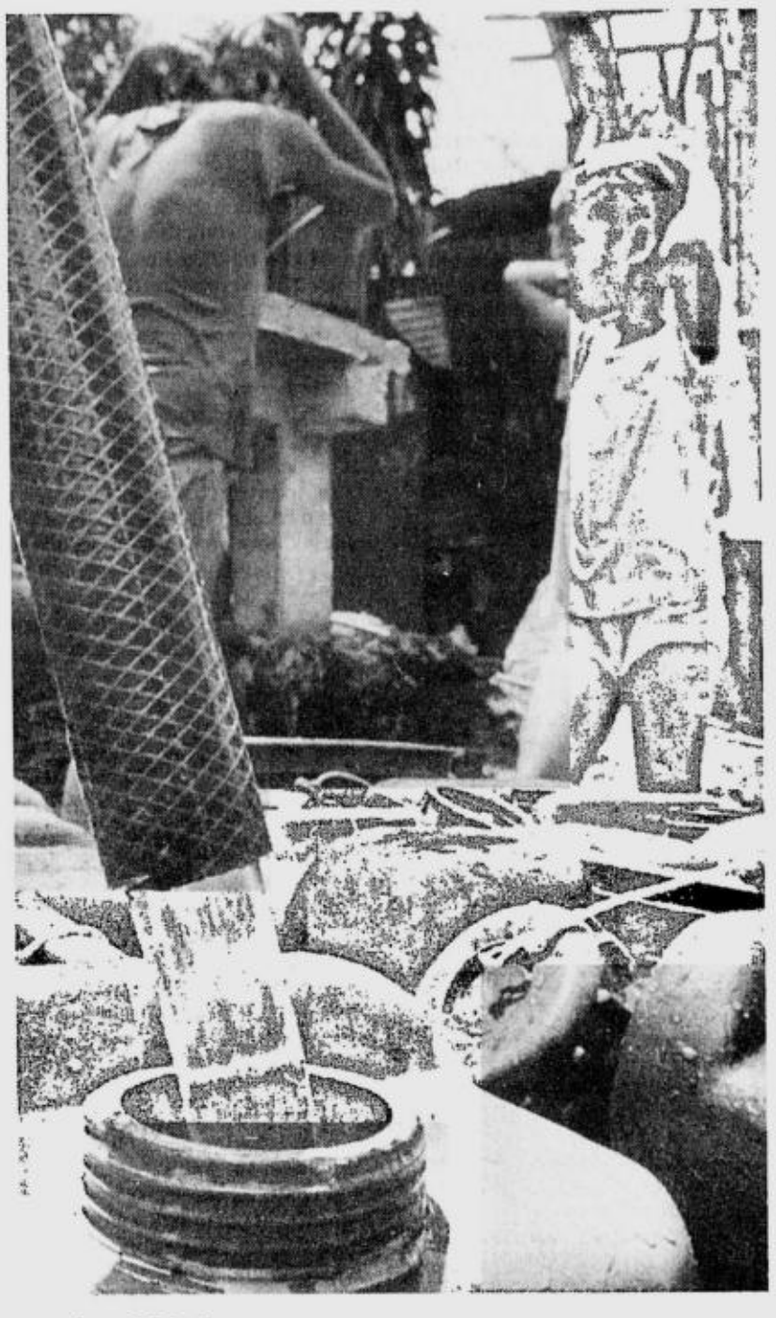
On Jan. 10, 2001, we had a line installed from the water meter to our tap. Up to now, there has been no supply of water. Maynilad representatives have inspected our connection many times and we regularly open the water valve during the day until the wee hours to check if there's water, but still there is no water.

Meanwhile, Maynilad started its billing on Dec. 15, 2000, 26 days before the connection was installed.

We requested water rationing—which it did provide at first and then stopped.

We wrote a letter to Maynilad, reminding the company that we've invested more than P6,000 for installation charges, barangay permits, long distance calls to the Imus office (which installed the line), etc. We pointed out that we've ended up spending more because we still get our supply from water tankers.

Maynilad at least owes it to us to reimburse the deposit and installation costs. But the company still has the gall to continue billing us. Maynilad said it will stop billing us if we ask for a disconnection, but we would be charged a reconnection fee if we avail ourselves of its service again.—**LORNA S. TORRE, Room 2, C & R Bldg., 861 Escoda St. corner Taft Ave., Manila**



Why Ramos can't run in 2004

TALKS about former President Fidel V. Ramos seeking the presidency in 2004 are stirring back to life the sleeping monsters of the Ramos administration. I refer to, among others, the Public Estates Authority-Amari scam, the Centennial Expo scandal, the tax credit scams, the privatization of Fort Bonifacio, the use of RSBS funds for real estate speculation, and the IPP contracts.

But its biggest monster was Ramos' decision to plunge the country into globalization in 1994, which indefinitely imprisoned Filipinos in unprecedented poverty, injustice and indignity.

Of course, while Aniano Desierto is ombudsman, the monsters will remain chained. That the plunders during the Ramos administration have remained unexamined up to now will go down in history as Desierto's principal achievement.

But in 2004 a new ombudsman will be installed. This—not the constitutional ban on reelection—is, to my mind, what makes Ramos' presidential bid in 2004 unlikely.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Inciong and Associates, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City**

Far cry from blue ribbon of old

TIME there was when the Senate blue ribbon committee was the feared nemesis of crooks in the government. A people's tribunal if one may call it.

Those were the glorious years when the probe body was chaired by such fearless, courageous and no-nonsense graftbusters, like the father and son Senators Lorenzo and Wigberto Tañada, Ernesto Maceda, Heherson Alvarez and Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

But that is now a thing of the past. For under Sen. Joker Arroyo, the committee has become a big joke. Instead of running after the grafters in government, as the Joker loudly boasted in the last election campaign, he has become their shield, if not protector.

Arroyo, who acts and talks like he is the committee, or owns the committee, has held the job for half a year now. What has he to show? What inquiry did he finish? What investigation has he reported out? None!

Worse, Arroyo does not even initiate a committee probe unless pushed by opposition senators. Indeed, it would be interesting to look into the number of referrals the probe body has received and the number he has acted on.

Furthermore, he has the propensity to pooh-pooh the contents of the sworn affidavits of potential witnesses. Just like what he did to Pacifico Marcelo and former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office consultant Robert Rivero.

Arroyo should have ordered the preparation of a committee report clearing First Gentleman Mike Arroyo from any involvement in the alleged bribery to recall the veto of the two telecom bills. Although the senator has already cleared publicly the First Gentleman, Senate rules require that a written report be prepared with proposed legislation if any, signed by all committee members for the record.

Arroyo is a far cry from his immediate predecessor, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who at this point of his chairmanship of the blue ribbon, was holding three hearings a week and coming out with stunning reports (the Expo scam and RSBS scandal, among others) indicting two former top officials of the land, a bunch of Cabinet members and military generals or police directors for various acts of malfeasance in government.

Arroyo a graft fighter? Give me a break! His new career has put in focus his track record for nine years in the House of Representatives. No staffers hired. No single bill authored or sponsored by him, one that came from his own initiative. All oral advocacy.

At present, Arroyo does not have any personnel complement except the plantilla personnel of the blue ribbon committee. This is why all his mail is received by the office of the Senate secretary.

Moreover, he has converted the blue ribbon committee into a clearinghouse for government officials who are under investigation. From a people's tribunal, the blue ribbon can now be aptly called a tributary for whitewash or inaction.

Truly, he has brought disgrace to a once awe-inspiring Senate probe body. The blue ribbon committee has become a big joke and turned mediocre under Senator Joker.—**A. DE JESUS, 15 Vienna St., Better Living Subd., Parañaque City**

Needed: a population policy

I STRONGLY agree with Biliran Rep. Gerardo S. Espina when he urged the government to come up with a definite policy on population. It is really necessary for the government to have laws regarding population control, because not only is the population growing but so are the demands of the people. Population affects not only the economy but also the health of the people, literacy and education levels, criminality rate and other social problems.

If we look around, Metro Manila is heavily populated now, and a lot of people from the rural areas are still coming to the city hoping to find better jobs and good opportunities but because of the unstoppable increase of the population all of us suffer and the government can no longer give the demands of the people.

Sometimes it is too annoying to see that people who cannot sustain their families' needs are the ones who have so many children. The explanation is that these people don't have anything to do, so they stay home and make babies as a form of leisure.

The country is divided when talking about contraceptives or birth control, because of the fact that the majority of Filipinos are Catholic, and the Church does not believe in birth control/contraceptives. People are getting confused. That is why the country should make an effort to check population growth.

The government must see to it that society's overhead capital is adequate and properly maintained. Population growth must slow down and economic growth must speed up for the figures to meet and for all Filipinos to have a better standard of living.

We need a coherent and comprehensive population policy framework that will integrate population policy into the government's broad socio-economic development plan. A policy framework that will take into consideration population management, family planning and reproductive health to achieve sustained growth of national income and bring about a fair distribution of the fruits of progress.—**MARY ANNE P. PEREZ, 19 San Miguel Village, Tandang Sora Ave., Quezon City**

Moro story still in the making

"Bagong Buwan" the movie, is a dream come true for peace advocates. Some Moro activists and Christian NGO workers who have been serving the refugees in evacuation centers would also be glad to know others have taken up the cudgels for innocent people caught in conflict.

More than anything, as director Marilou Diaz-Abaya said, the movie's success cannot be measured at the box office but by its essence: the call for peace. The movie does not purport to present everything that needs to be understood about the Muslims. Neither does it want to answer the complex themes of the right to self-determination nor suggest the best way to genuine peace for the Moro people.

The film is but a gateway to other dimensions of the peace discourse such as economic inequity, tri-people relationships, majority-minority relations and such. The civilians in conflict are but a facet of the big island that is Mindanao. There is also much activity in the other provinces as contrasted to the militarized areas in conflict.

The Moro story does not end with the film. More stories are to be shared in the Moro homes and communities of the Mohammads, Jamils, Aishas and Faridas struggling to survive from day to day.

So I hope the movie does not remain in the realm of the mind and heart. Though the first step has been taken toward empathy, the bigger challenge—and duty—I feel, is to act, whether one be a Dr. Ahmad, the Muslim professional, or a Jason, the Christian interested in peace.—**SAMIRA ALI GUTOC, Mindanao Youth Peace Workers Network, Marawi City**

LETTERS

Questionable figures on child prostitutes

IN REPLY to T.A. Cruz's letter titled "Can there be that many child prostitutes?" (PDI, 1/4/02) as claimed by the End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (Ecpat), may I state that Unicef disputes this bloated money-raising figure of 100,000. Who is correct? The Department of Tourism may wish to examine this figure. The wrong type of tourists may be attracted to our children.

Ecpat may wish to explain its absence of figures on AIDS from adults to children. The Department of Health should be interested in this claim as Ecpat blames the government for much of the child sex. Why haven't the police arrested just one of the hundreds of thousands of adult customers in its seven years of not putting an "end" to what it claims exists?—**EMIL SY, Camella Homes, Bacoor, Cavite**

Usurious rates of credit card firms

THE COURAGEOUS move by Sen. Blas Ople to ask the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to regulate the highly usurious lending rates of credit card companies (which are mostly owned by giant foreign and local banks) to make them conform with official bank lending rates deserves the full support of the entire Filipino citizenry.

The government's ignorance, indifference or apathy to a situation where these credit card companies are reaping huge, usurious and highly immoral profits at the expense of our people cannot be allowed to continue any further. Instead of encouraging our people to spend within their means and save some amount for the proverbial rainy day, these credit card companies, through their questionable promotional offensives, are prodding our people to spend well beyond their means, leading them inevitably to financial disaster. Their very high interest rates ensure that these credit card loans will remain unsettled indefinitely. In our badly depressed economy, these credit card companies are making matters worse.

The Filipino people are thankful that there are still people in government like Ople who have the guts to go against big businesses and make them toe the line. Most government officials would rather look the other way and play it safe for political reasons.—**ARNULFO P. CRUZ, 102 N. Ramirez St., Galas, Quezon City**

Hawkish talk alarms US allies

LONDON—Gung-ho talk in Washington of making Iraq America's next target after the war in Afghanistan alarms pro-Western Arab rulers and many European governments.

The drive to hunt Osama bin Laden and destroy his Taliban protectors in Afghanistan has been stressful enough for Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, whose rulers have had to tread an awkward path between the demands of their US patrons and unease at Bin Laden's appeal to their own people.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Alistair Lyon

Despite some signs that the United States will not rush into any Iraq adventure, Arab leaders can only cringe when American hawks crank up the decibels—as Sen. John McCain did on Wednesday when he cried "Next up Baghdad" while visiting a US aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea.

"They don't like Saddam, but they fear street reaction," Mustafa Karkouti, a London-based Syrian analyst, said of authoritarian Arab governments with close ties to the West.

The Arab League has declared its opposition to any attack on Iraq, though Gulf Arab states last week urged Baghdad to let UN arms inspections resume to avert more regional tension. The inspectors left in December 1998, shortly before a US-British bombing campaign, and have not returned. Iraq says it has no weapons of mass destruction and wants a complete end to UN sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

US President George W. Bush has fuelled speculation that his country might orchestrate a military campaign to topple Saddam Hussein by saying the Iraqi ruler must allow the return of the weapons inspectors or "find out" the consequences.

European members of the anti-terrorism coalition, including faithful US ally Britain, have long made plain their distaste for targeting Iraq, at least without clear proof it was involved in the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington. Russia, surprisingly cooperative so far in the US-declared war on global terrorism, firmly opposes extending it to Iraq.

German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping said this week the US-led coalition had no plan to attack Iraq. "There is no indication at all that there is any kind of military planning in connection with Iraq—completely to the contrary," he said.

"No European country believes it is in the logic of the anti-terrorist drive to undertake something against Iraq," French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine said last month.

Arab rulers dread the prospect even more keenly, aware that their own legitimacy and grip on power could be challenged by the impact of a new crisis on their restive populations. Karkouti, citing widespread anti-Western sentiment among Arabs angered by Washington's hostility to Iraq and support for Israel, said an attempt to bring down Saddam would cause acute strain for America's traditional allies in the Middle East.

In Jordan, whose economy is closely linked to its Iraqi neighbor, former royal court chief Adnan Abu Odeh said it would be "good news" for the region if the hawks in Washington failed to win support for a full-blooded campaign to oust Saddam. But he said the US might not defer action forever. "They will not give up the objective itself," he told Reuters. "Maybe they will wait for better circumstances."

Abu Odeh said the Iraqi government was rattled by the threat of US action. "They are taking it very seriously in Baghdad. Sometimes they look nervous and sometimes unusually diplomatic," he said. "They are oscillating between these extremes."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri was quoted on Wednesday as saying his country had no objection to dialogue with the United States. He also told the pan-Arab al-Hayat daily that Baghdad was ready to work with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to resolve the issue of people missing since the 1991 Gulf War.

The prospect of an attack on Iraq arouses deep misgivings in neighboring Turkey, concerned that war could send refugees flooding across its borders and lead to a territorial break-up that might enable Kurds to carve out an independent state. Turkey, which has battled its own autonomy-seeking Kurds for years, is a Nato member with military bases and assets which the Americans would want to use in any confrontation with Iraq.

Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, due in Washington next week, will seek to sway Bush to combat Saddam by non-military means, according to Turkish commentator Mehmet Ali Birand. He said Turkey recognized that if the Americans decided to assault Iraq, it could not avoid involvement. "Ecevit will try to persuade Bush not to have a military operation, but he knows he can't dictate to Washington," he added.

Iraqi Kurds, who have held a northern enclave since the Gulf War, do not relish being seen as an anti-Saddam strike force on the lines of Afghanistan's Northern Alliance, a role that would invite fearsome vengeance from Baghdad if things went wrong.

For the moment, the outcome of the debate in Washington over how to tackle Iraq remains unclear. The signals are mixed. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, who has long advocated Saddam's forceful removal, said this week that his country was focused on Afghanistan for now. While not excluding military action against Iraq, he said in an interview with the New York Times that the next task might be to prevent terrorists from finding refuge in countries such as Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia and the Philippines.

A spat over funding between the State Department and the Iraqi National Congress, a US-aided opposition group, has added, perhaps fortuitously, to the impression that the Bush administration has pushed any war plans toward the back burner.

Karkouti said the United States might have decided it could not easily replicate in Iraq its success in smashing the Taliban. "First of all there is no such Iraqi 'Northern Alliance' as in Afghanistan," he said, referring to the Taliban's foes who captured Kabul after an intense US bombing campaign.

Saddam, he argued, had survived sanctions and allied bombing for more than a decade since the Gulf War and commanded far more resources than the impoverished Taliban had ever enjoyed. "It's a rich regime. They have money, they can buy loyalty in the army and the civil service."

Birand argued that the United States might get more serious about Iraq once the fate of Bin Laden becomes clear. "The Americans are very adamant," he said. "They will do something, but nobody knows when they will do it."

Reuters

Be president and see the world

IT has been said that to see the world, one has to join the US navy. This is no longer true. To see the world, one has to be a Philippine official, particularly, president.

Ever since Imelda R. Marcos started the fad as first lady, Philippine presidents (Cory Aquino not included), have followed suit. At the rate President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is going, she may still surpass the travel record of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Nowadays, the usual alibi is investment. If one studies these leaders who use the people's money to travel with a whole entourage, the country would have already been a First World nation. But where are we now? Funny, but a Philippine president can out-travel any leader of rich and big countries any month of the year.

Be a Philippine president and see the world!—**HONORIO E. YBERA JR., Geranios 22 Fracc. Copacabana, Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico**

The WORLD
LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

SANCTUARY TO AL-QAIDA

Bush warns Iran on Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush warned Thursday that Tehran must hand over any al-Qaida members seeking refuge in Iran and will face dire consequences if it seeks to destabilize Afghanistan's interim government.

"If they in any way shape or form try to destabilize the government, the coalition (waging the US-led war on terrorism) will deal with them, in diplomatic ways initially," the US president told reporters.

US officials are reportedly worried that Iran may be using arms shipments and cash in a bid to limit neighboring Afghanistan's pro-Western tilt and is enlisting members of Bin Laden's al-Qaida network in the effort.

Bush sternly declared that this would be unacceptable, saying "either you're with us or against us, and any nation that thwarts our ability to root terror out where it exists will be held to account one way or the other."

"We would hope that they (Iran) would continue to be a positive force in helping us bring people to justice. We would hope, for example, they wouldn't allow al-Qaida murderers to hide in their country," said Bush.

"We would hope that if that be the case, if someone tries to flee into Iran, that they would hand them over to us," the US leader said.

State department spokesperson Richard Boucher echoed those remarks and noted that Washington had worked indirectly with Iran on Afghanistan in the past, particularly in the context of the UN's "Six-Plus-Two" mechanism and at a UN sponsored conference in Bonn at which the interim Afghan was formed.

"I would note that we have worked with the Iranians at the Bonn meetings . . . in the Six-Plus-Two process," Boucher said.

"The Iranians have committed themselves and indeed in Bonn worked to try to bring about a broad-based government for Afghanistan," he said. "We want to see that kind of support continue."

Boucher added that Washington was trying to organize a new "Six-Plus-Two" meeting in several weeks in Kabul. The grouping includes Afghanistan's six immediate neighbors—China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan—plus the United States and Russia.

Iran swiftly rejected suggestions that it has been trying to undermine the newborn government or harboring members of the network headed by Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terrorist onslaught. *AFP*

Sept. 11 aftermath to cost US 1.6M jobs

LOS ANGELES—The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks will cost the country more than 1.6 million jobs by the end of the year, according to a study released Friday.

The Milken Institute, a Santa Monica-based economic think-tank that conducted the study of 315 cities, said the losses will spread across industries, from restaurants to financial services to aerospace.

"The consequences of Sept. 11 for individuals and unique localities have been profound," the report said.

Already, 248,000 jobs have been lost because of the attacks, the institute said.

This year, New York City is expected to lose nearly 150,000 jobs, followed by Los Angeles with 69,000 jobs, and Chicago with at least 68,000, the report said.

Las Vegas will prove the single most vulnerable metropolitan area in percentage terms: The report said it is likely to see nearly 5 percent fewer jobs this year because of the attacks.

"The good news is that many of those jobs should come back," said Ross DeVol, director of regional studies at the Milken Institute.

Most cities are expected to begin to recover in 2003, with the exception of New York, which should start its rebound a year later, the report said. However, DeVol said the economic damage will linger into 2004.

The US Labor Department, which tallies job losses, found a total of 1.1 million jobs were lost from September through December.

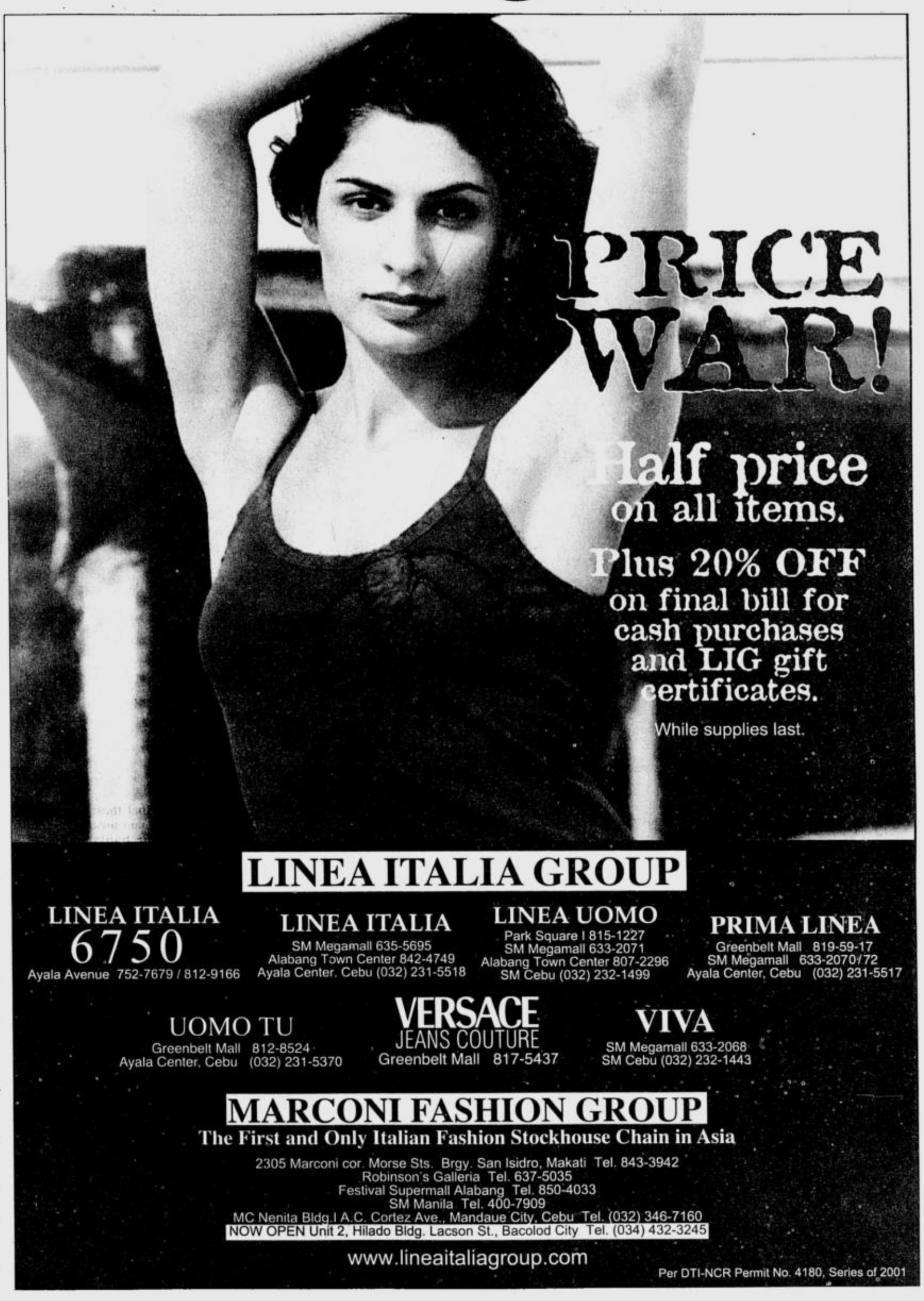
Those four months account for all but 300,000 of the jobs lost since the recession began in March, the department's statistics show.

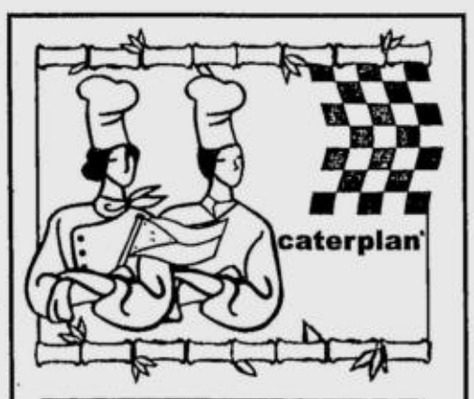
The Milken report used economic models to extrapolate employment losses based on each metro area's economic trends prior to Sept. 11.

Of the estimated 1.6 million job losses this year that it ties to the terrorist attacks, 760,000 will be directly related to the attacks, with two-thirds of those in travel and tourism, the report said. The rest will be due to a ripple effect, it said.

The largest drop-off will be in air transportation, accounting for about 20 percent of the lost jobs, the report said.

Spending on airline travel dropped 38 percent in September, a decline of $12.5 billion, and improved only modestly in October. In October and November, the industry cut 81,000 jobs, or 6.2 percent of its work force. *AP*





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Israel bulldozes Gaza runway, freezes ties

RAFAH, Gaza Strip—The Israeli Army bulldozed the runway at the Palestinian-controlled international airport in the Gaza Strip on Friday in apparent retaliation for a deadly Palestinian raid in southern Israel.

Witnesses, Palestinian officials and Israeli security sources said tanks and bulldozers thrust into the airport grounds before dawn, hours after Israel suspended ties with the Palestinian Authority over an alleged plot to smuggle a shipload of arms.

The latest moves on both sides, including an announcement by the militant group Islamic Jihad that it would no longer adhere to its halt in attacks on Israelis, threatened to wreck US efforts to end more than 15 months of bloodshed.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told supporters on Thursday he would not resume contacts with the Palestinians until they arrested those involved in a weapons shipment that Israel seized in the Red Sea, political sources said.

But Sharon—who has accused Yasser Arafat of ordering the shipment, a charge the Palestinian leader has denied—said Israeli-Palestinian "security cooperation" would not be affected by the decision.

Nabil Abu Rdainah, a senior aide to Arafat, dismissed Israel's freezing of ties as part of a "destructive phase of Israeli policy" and said relations had already ceased since US Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni left the region on Sunday.

The incursion at the airport in the southern Gaza Strip—a key symbol of Palestinian aspirations to statehood—followed a raid by Hamas militants on Wednesday that killed four Israeli soldiers at an Army post just across the border with Israel.

A Reuters cameraman said he saw bulldozers guarded by more than half a dozen tanks digging up the runway at the airport, which has been out of operation since a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation erupted in September 2000.

Israel's Army radio said the move was in retaliation for Wednesday's attack, which broke a three-week lull in the violence. Israeli forces demolished dozens of homes in a Gaza Strip refugee camp on Thursday, saying they were used by gunmen to fire on troops.

"The information I have is that there are 10 military tanks and bulldozers and they are excavating the runway," said Fayez Zaidan, a Palestinian official in charge of civil aviation.

The Israeli Army said its forces were "operating in the area" but declined to comment further.

The airport was undergoing renovation after a previous Israeli incursion on Dec. 4 during which bulldozers ripped up the runways in retaliation for a wave of suicide bombings.

Witnesses also said the Army moved armor into positions on the main north-south road, effectively cutting off Gaza City in the northern part from Rafah and other areas in the south.

The Palestinians had been bracing for Israeli reprisals since Israel seized a ship laden with munitions on Jan. 3 that it said was bound for Palestinian areas on Arafat's orders.

Arafat has denied any involvement, and the Palestinian Authority has also rejected allegations linking it to the arms shipment, although US officials said there was compelling evidence against high-ranking Palestinian officials. *Reuters*

Argentina hit by new protests

BUENOS AIRES—Frustrated Argentines clanged pots and pans in front of the presidential palace early on Friday in peaceful protest of the government's decision to freeze their bank deposits amid a harrowing financial crisis.

In a calmer version of the riots that forced two presidents to quit last month, thousands of Argentines lashed out at new President Eduardo Duhalde's move to protect brittle banks by allowing them to keep some deposits under wraps until 2003.

"If I rob a bank, they throw me in jail. But if they rob me, then they say that's OK," one man screamed on local television as cars streamed by blasting their horns outside the pink palace where Duhalde has worked since taking power just last week.

Deeply angered by a deep recession now in its fourth year, Argentines have repeatedly taken to the streets on hot summer nights in recent weeks in a desperate cry for change from politicians seen as distant and corrupt.

But none of the five men to lead Latin America's third-largest economy in the last month have been able to deliver a miracle cure to the slump, with worries of a broader implosion prompting ever-tighter controls on deposits.

The protests were an unwelcome distraction for banks as some worked all night to prepare for the first day of foreign exchange trade since Duhalde's decision on Sunday to devalue the peso by nearly 30 percent.

Witnesses said the protesters began returning home shortly after 2 a.m. Police reported no incidents of violence.

After more than a decade pegged at one to the US dollar, some analysts say market jitters could send the peso spiraling as much as 70 percent lower in coming months. *Reuters*

INVESTIGATOR REUTERS

A seven-month-old female river hippo named Kiboko contemplates the inside of its mother's mouth Jan. 10 at the San Diego Zoo. The mother, Funani, held her mouth open for several minutes while the calf investigated her teeth and tongue. The pair is on exhibit at the San Diego Zoo's Ituri Forest habitat.

El Niño may be returning

WASHINGTON—Waters in the tropical Pacific Ocean are warming, a change that could mean a return of the El Niño, a climate phenomenon that can affect weather worldwide.

The warming was reported Thursday by the federal Climate Prediction Center, a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The agency said El Niño could occur by early spring, but any impact on the United States would be unlikely before late summer, continuing through fall and into next winter.

"The magnitude of an El Niño determines the severity of its impacts," said climate specialist Vernon Kousky. "At this point, it is too early to predict if this El Niño might develop along the same lines as the 1997-98 episode, or be weaker," he said.

The 1997-98 El Niño was extremely severe, causing flooding rains in California and along the Gulf Coast.

The climate center said indications of the current warming include increased cloudiness and rainfall over the equatorial central Pacific for the first time since the last El Niño. *AP*

Enron collapse entangles Bush administration

WASHINGTON—The collapse of Enron Corp. entangled the Bush administration on Thursday as the White House said two Cabinet officers were warned of its looming financial crisis and Attorney General John Ashcroft rescued himself from the criminal probe into the energy trading giant.

Trying to inoculate himself from the political fallout, President George W. Bush ordered a review headed by Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill of US pension and corporate disclosure rules. The review aims to avoid a repeat of the Enron collapse, in which thousands of employees lost their pension savings and the company filed the largest bankruptcy in US history.

In a series of stunning disclosures that followed Wednesday's announcement of a criminal investigation into Enron, the energy firm's auditor, Andersen, said its employees had destroyed documents related to Enron's balance sheet.

Bush's team has close ties to Enron and its chair, Kenneth Lay, a major Bush campaign contributor. Last autumn, Lay called O'Neill and Commerce Secretary Don Evans, Bush's 2000 campaign manager, to warn them of Enron's mounting financial problems, the White House said.

In an indication Enron may have been making feelers about a financial rescue, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said Lay raised the case of Long Term Capital Management, a hedge fund that received a government-orchestrated private bailout in 1998.

O'Neill and Evans both said they opted to do nothing. O'Neill rejected the suggestion that Enron had asked for a bailout. "Absolutely not," he said.

"It was an information request, telling me that they had problems and that he thought that we would want to have our technical people talk with theirs to understand where they were so that we could execute our responsibility with regard to the function of the capital markets," O'Neill said.

Evans, on CNBC television, said Lay had alerted him to media reports that Enron's credit rating was under review, and mentioned Enron's large presence in energy trading markets.

"He said, `I want you to know that Moody is currently reviewing it. If there's any kind of support you could give us we would welcome that.' But he certainly didn't ask for me to call them (Moody's Investors Service) or anything like that," Evans said. He said Lay called on about Oct. 29, which would be a day after the first of two calls by Lay to O'Neill. *Reuters*

Pope hits 'marginalization' of religion

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II on Thursday denounced the marginalization of religion in Europe, as he set out his vision of the problems facing world leaders in 2002 in a New Year's address to diplomats at the Holy See.

The 81-year-old Pontiff made particular mention of the "error" of European leaders in marginalizing religion in the continuing development of the 15-state European Union.

He said it was "both an injustice and an error of perspective" that religious communities were ignored during the recent EU summit which established a Convention to look into EU reform and expansion.

"No explicit mention was made of communities of religious believers among the partners who are to contribute to the reflection on the Convention instituted at the Laeken summit last month," the 81-year-old Pontiff said.

"The marginalization of religions, which have contributed and continue to contribute to the culture and humanism of which Europe is legitimately proud, strikes me as both an injustice and an error of perspective."

The European Convention was established to oversee the reform and expansion of the European Union by up to 12 new states by 2004.

The Pope's address touched on a range of world concerns in his annual address to diplomats, including flashpoints from Asia to Argentina.

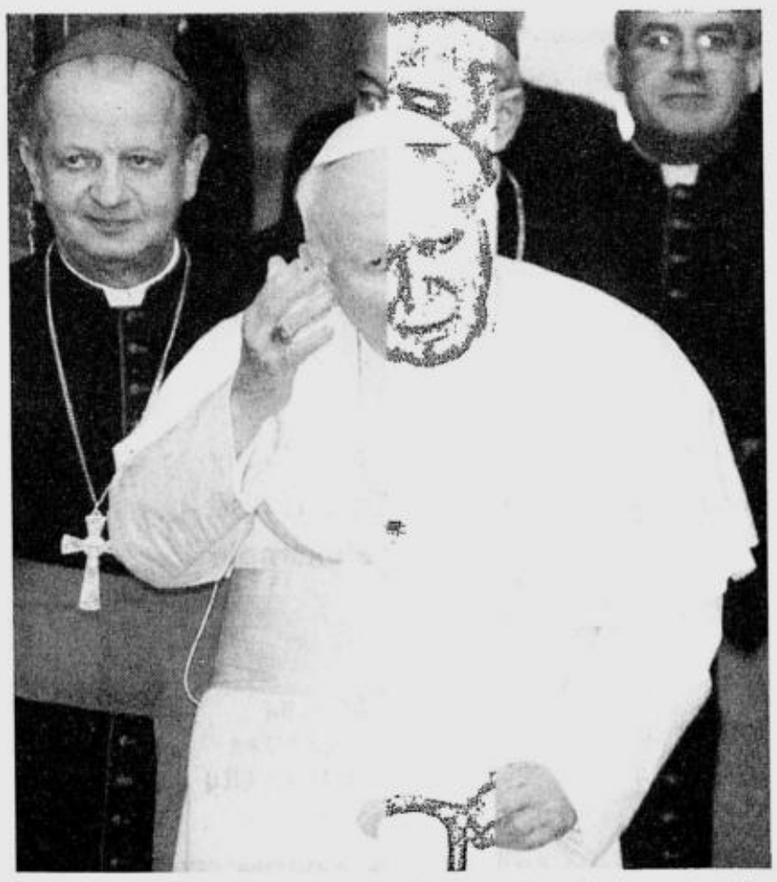
He urged the leaders of tense nuclear neighbors India and Pakistan to favor "dialogue and negotiation."

"I must mention the tensions which have once more set India and Pakistan at odds, in order earnestly to request the political leaders of these great nations to give absolute priority to dialogue and negotiation."

On the Middle East, he said the Holy Land remained "a land of fire and blood."

"As I have already stated on many occasions, only respect for others and their legitimate aspirations, the application of international law, the evacuation of the occupied territories and an internationally guaranteed special status for the most holy places in Jerusalem" could break "the hellish cycle of hatred and vengeance."

He reiterated that the fight against terrorism was "legitimate," and in a comment aimed at the terrorists who invoke God in their acts, said: "Killing in the name of God is an act of blasphemy and a perversion of religion." *AFP*



POPE John Paul II waves as he arrives for a meeting with diplomats at the Vatican Jan. 10. The Pope, speaking in his annual State of the World Address, said the horizon for peace in the world was dark and that humanity found itself gripped by fear of an uncertain future. REUTERS

ANTARCTIC ICE

Penguin chicks cut off from food, starve

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—Thousands of Antarctic penguin chicks face starvation as huge icebergs and unprecedented ice levels in the Ross Sea cut parent birds off from feeding grounds, scientists said Friday.

One colony of majestic Emperor penguins and three of Adelie penguins have had their access to vital sea food supplies almost blocked by the natural ice barrier.

Access to the ocean is vital. Penguins come ashore to breed and then take it in turns to leave the nest to feed on krill, fish and squid before returning to regurgitate the food for their chicks.

Scientists say several Ross Sea colonies will lose up to 30 percent of their populations. As many as 20,000 penguin chicks could die if access to food doesn't improve in the next two months, they say.

The Ross Sea is on the northern Antarctic coast, 3,832 km south of New Zealand.

Adult penguins are dying from exhaustion and their chicks starving as they lose the struggle of trekking between nests and their food source, said Antarctica New Zealand's science strategy manager Dean Peterson.

"They are having to backpack over an extra 20 to 30 km and they're running out of food and energy," he said. The length they have to traverse is the distance between the sea and their nests.

Antarctica New Zealand is New Zealand's government-funded Antarctic research management agency.

Only about 10 percent of chicks born each season survive the harsh Antarctic conditions. Peterson said that could be cut to five or even two percent at some colonies this year because of the lack of food.

Two giant icebergs are causing the food supply problem.

Named "B15" by the United States National Ice Center, the larger iceberg measures 11,000 sq. km., the same size as Jamaica. The second and smaller iceberg west of B15 has been named "B16."

Peterson said the icebergs have formed a barrier between the Ross Sea region and the open sea, so waves had less chance to break up the ice.

Cape Crozier, home to one of the largest colonies of Adelie penguins in the world with 130,000 breeding pairs is almost surrounded by impassable ice, he said. *AP*

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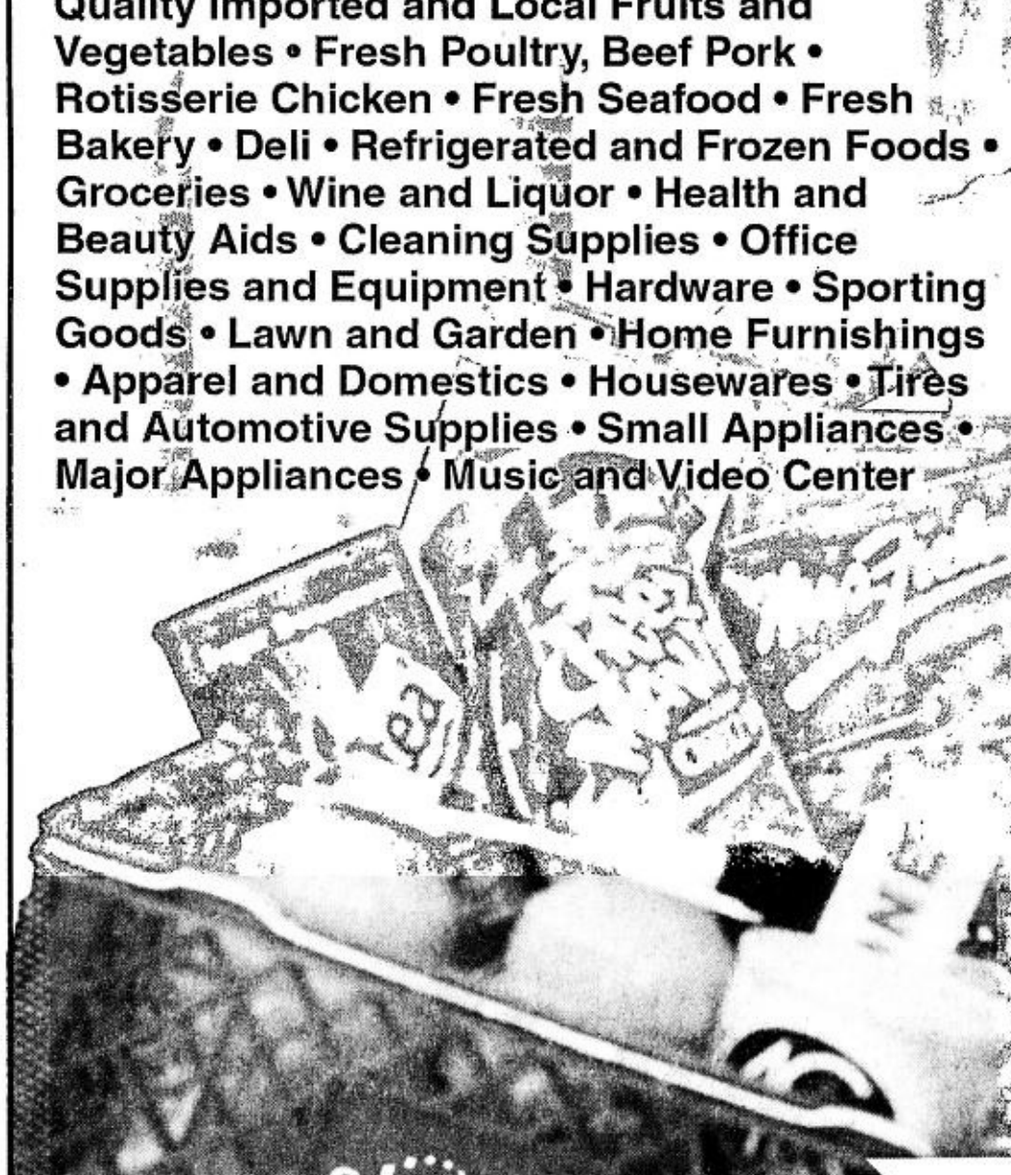

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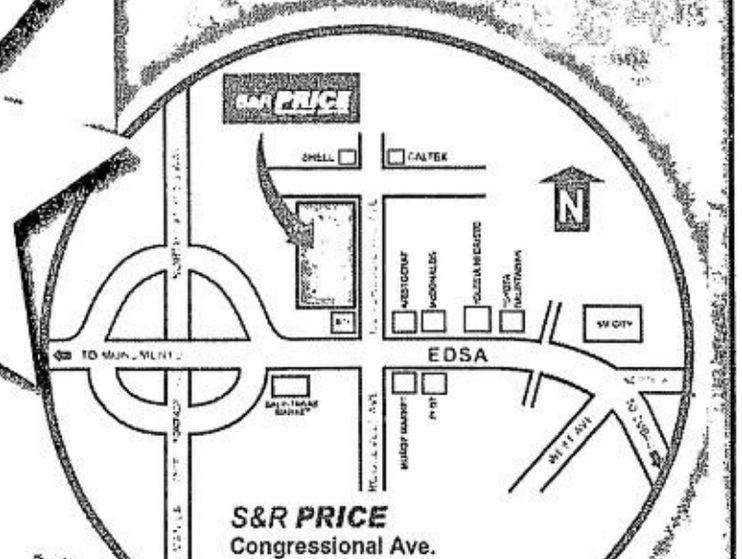

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Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Trader escapes kidnap, slay attempt

DAGUPAN CITY—Police have tightened security for a Chinese-Filipino businessman who foiled a kidnapping or assassination attempt on his life on Thursday by diving into a river here.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pangasinan police director, ordered the city police to provide Francis Paul Co with additional security to prevent the criminals from getting near him.

Supt. Noli Taliño, police chief here, said Co was "in a safe place that is regularly patrolled by the police."

He said they are still undertaking follow-up operations so they could not release yet the sketches of the men who tried to abduct or attack him.

Witnesses said there were four people in the car used by the suspects but a witness could identify only two of them, Taliño said.

He said the Chinese community here has yet to ask the police for security, but local and police officials met on Thursday with owners of hotels and inns to discuss security measures.

"We need everyone's cooperation to stop similar incidents from occurring because the city police is undermanned. With only 114 policemen, the ratio at nighttime is one policeman for every 1,400 residents. The ideal is one policeman for every 500 residents," he said.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said members of the Chinese-Filipino community here were "very concerned" about their safety and they will meet next week to prevent criminality here.

"They will be mapping a plan to help the police. They will be giving equipment and other materials to support the authorities in the fight against kidnapping and other crimes," Lim said.

Police, however, are still at a loss as to the motive of the attack on Co.

Mendoza said it could not be established yet if the case was a foiled kidnapping or assassination or "a grand design to project a poor peace and order situation in the city and the province."

"This is a highly irregular case. If the intention was to kill him, they (criminals) could have done so. And if it was a kidnapping case, they should have done it right after he got out from his house's gate or at the golf course where there are few people. Perhaps they were just trying to scare him," he said.

Co, an architect-contractor, was driving alone on his way to a golf course in Barangay Tondaligan here when he noticed an old white sedan tailgating him.

When he reached Bonuan Catacdang here, the car overtook and cut his Chevrolet.

Co then overtook the sedan and an Elf truck but the engine of his Chevrolet stopped while he was at the Tanap Bridge.

The suspects started firing and Co jumped out and dived into the river.

Co swam toward radio station dzWN-Bombo Radyo about 40 meters away. There the station's personnel helped him and reported the incident to the police.

Co suffered cuts in the left foot and right thumb and was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

SPO4 Juanito Abalos said Co's car had five bullet holes.

Co told police that his attackers were carrying long firearms and handguns, like 9 mm and .45 cal. pistols.

He said he heard his attackers swearing in Ilocano and Filipino.

"Damn, he was not hit. We should have used our long firearms. He could have been dead now," Co quoted his attackers as saying. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao will experience rains with occasional gusty winds. Coastal waters of these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 18°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 21° Lo 09°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 27° Lo 16°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 19°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 17°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 25° Lo 17°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 27° Lo 20°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 19°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/12/02

THE JOYS OF WAR DENNIS SABANGAN

Soldiers from the 59th Infantry Battalion whoop it up aboard a military truck while on their way to Cabatangan Complex, which government forces took over from renegade supporters of jailed ex-Gov. Nur Misuari.

ROUNDUP

Town execs sued for libel

MINALIN, Pampanga—Mayor Edgar Flores of this flood-prone town sued six municipal councilors and two others for libel for allegedly maligning him in connection with the purchase of 24 two-way radios last year. Flores said the councilors had caused the publication of an open letter containing what he called "malicious accusations intended to destroy my integrity." Charged were Councilors Romulo Mandap, Ricky Narciso, Marciano Sacdalan, Vanzalon Tizon, Jerome Tongol and Edgardo Yambao, and their aides Wilfredo Pingol and Valeriano Calicdan. The councilors, who charged Flores with graft and corruption, grave misconduct and administrative dishonesty, wrote in an open letter that the mayor had overpriced each of the 24 radios by P5,400. Flores called the accusations against him "false and without good intention." ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Most wanted nabbed

BALIUAG, Bulacan—Police here arrested on Thursday the most wanted person in the town. Rolando Espiritu, 23, was arrested while allegedly stealing a motorbike in Barangay Poblacion. Police said Espiritu is facing several cases, including car theft, snatching, robbery and homicide, before the courts here. He was believed to be a member of a syndicate stealing motorcycles and selling these for illegal drugs. Recovered from him were eight stolen motorcycles, six bicycles and spare tires.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Army to build Albay road

JOVELLAR, Albay—Army engineers will be asked to build the P50-million Guinobatan-Jovellar road to save half of the project cost, President Macapagal-Arroyo told this town's 23 village chiefs and residents during her recent visit. Due to the bad road leading to Jovellar, this upland town has been isolated from the rest of Albay and has become a breeding ground for insurgency. The assignment of the road construction project to the Army's Engineering Brigade is meant to ensure the speedy and continuous implementation of the project without harassment from the New People's Army.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Coco fest in Laguna

LOCAL and foreign tourists, pilgrims, and other spectators will flock tomorrow to San Pablo City in Laguna, about three hours' ride from Metro Manila, to witness the Coconut Festival, the city's tourist attraction held every January. Participants in different costumes, dance, sing, play instruments and ride in different floats. The festival is also the subject of an on-the-spot photo contest organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc.

3 life terms to rapist

CALBAYOG CITY—The Regional Trial Court meted three life terms on a farmer, who pleaded guilty of raping his stepdaughter. RTC Judge Roberto Navidal of Branch 38 here told Rolando Francisco, 50, to pay the victim P150,000 in damages. Court records showed that on Jan. 22, 1996, Francisco repeatedly raped his victim, then 14, in their house in Sitio Kagdurugyan, Barangay Tarabucan here.

Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Fewer cases vs soldiers

CATBALOGAN, Samar—The number of disciplinary cases involving personnel from the Army's 8th Infantry Division dropped from 99 in 2000 to 72 cases last year. Of the 72, 65 soldiers went on Absence Without Official Leave (Awol). The same records showed that five 8th ID personnel were discharged from the service while one was demoted.

Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Boy, 6 others killed in Cotabato clash

COTABATO CITY—Communist rebels early Thursday killed four militiamen during an ambush in Makilala, Cotabato, the military said.

Major Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division said a boy died in the crossfire, while two rebels were also killed following a 20-minute firefight.

Killed were militiamen Jonathan Asomo, Hernani Carlos, Elmer Tanague and Freddie Porras, all residents of Tulunan town, Grade 4 pupil Boy Balawag and two unidentified New People's Army rebels.

Ando said the militiamen were on a routine patrol in Sitio Argao, Barangay Nuangan when about 50 NPA guerrillas fired on them.

The boy was on his way to school when a stray bullet pierced his neck.

He died while being treated at a hospital in Kidapawan City.

In another attack, a former MNLF commander was killed along with his 8-year-old son on Thursday night in Pagangan, Aleosan town, also in Cotabato province.

Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said Nasser Sambuto, and his son Mohammad died while his wife Aisa was wounded, after unidentified armed men fired at them.

Sambuto and his family were taking their dinner when the suspects, armed with Armalite rifles barged into their house.

In South Cotabato, armed men attacked the residence of a former Moro rebel commander in Polomolok town.

Police said the armed men failed to inflict harm on Commander Bong Faisal, a former leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, but killed his nephew, Teng Talamia.

Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, Central Mindanao police chief, said it was the second attempt on Faisal's life by a still unidentified group. ***Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Señase and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Traders urge halt to wage hikes

DAVAO CITY—Local businessmen are opposing the granting of a new round of wage increases, saying this would force them to mechanize operations to cut expenses.

The Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCCII) told the regional wage board that despite the country's dismal economic performance, workers continued to receive high wages.

The Philippines, it said, now ranked fourth among countries in the region with high labor costs. It cited South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore as countries where the cost of doing business has considerably increased.

Romeo Serra, chamber president, warned that once businesses, especially in the labor-intensive sector, mechanized operations, there would be a "ballooning of the region's unemployed population."

"Companies having difficulties in coping with the rising cost of business will eventually be forced to pass the brunt to the consuming public, rendering the wage increase inflationary in nature," Serra said.

Bonifacio Tan, a board member of the DCCCII, said the recent floods that hit the region also worsened the prospects of granting wage increases, especially in firms engaged in agriculture.

"It's not really easy this year, in the first and second quarters," he said.

Tan urged the wage board to maintain a "status quo" in minimum wage levels in the region.

Robert Quinto, executive vice president of the DCCCII, said increasing incentives as part of the monthly benefits of workers was another option to setting new wage levels for the region.

"Material incentives could come in the form of health benefits, payment for the education of the workers' children, and distribution of medicines monthly," Quinto said.

Giving these incentives would be a good opportunity for the workers to increase productivity and would benefit the companies as well, he said.

The chamber offered other alternatives to the wage board. Among them were the fixing of wage increases based on the inflation rate, bigger income tax exemptions for workers belonging to the lower income bracket, increasing productivity, and reducing the cost of living through graft-free food, shelter and education programs.

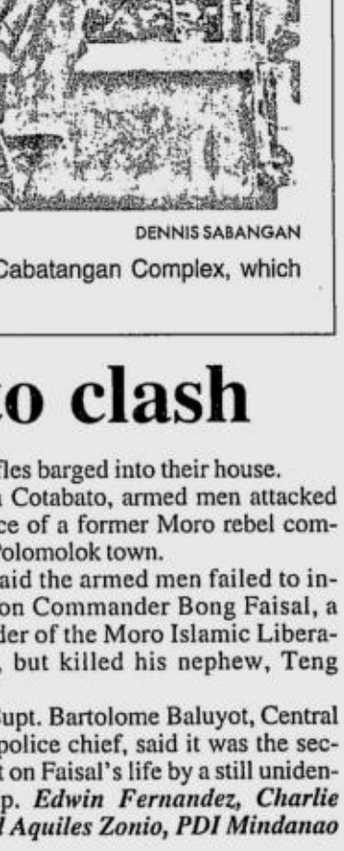
In Cagayan de Oro City, Allan Macaraya, labor director for Northern Mindanao, said the wage board had granted a request from the management sector to systematize any projection of wage increases.

"This formula has been used by Regions 1 (Ilocos) and 12 (Central Mindanao), and the management in our region figured out that it might also work here in order to really come out with a systematic process instead of haggling over various figures and compromises," Macaraya said.

The formula, called the econometrics wage increase determinant, takes into account the inflation rate, poverty threshold, consumer price index and unemployment, among other factors, in the computation of wage increases.

Jose Belen, president of the Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce, said his group agreed to the use of the formula after sensing that the wage board is bent on granting wage increases. ***Joel Escovilla, Ayan Mellejor and Grace Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Tools for farms, not weapons for war, tribal folk cry out



DAVAO CITY—"Give us arms to till our lands and to educate our young, not arms to kill other people."

This was what Datu Pelayon Pento of the Matiglalig tribe in Paquibato District here said about the military's anti-communist program in Southern Mindanao.

Pento said indigenous communities do not want to participate in the "Alsa Lumad" created by the military, purportedly to protect their villages.

Under the program, *lumads* are enjoined to become militiamen, but Pento said they were anxious about the recruitment.

"The firearms they are giving us would only invite trouble where there is none," he said.

Pento suggested that instead of arms, the military and the government should give them farm animals and implements.

Datu Dogoon Gumataw, also of the Matiglalig tribe, claimed that their area is so peaceful that soldiers or militiamen are not needed there.

"We *datus* do not want the Cafgu in our areas, we don't want any enemies," he said in the vernacular.

With the military constantly hounding them, Gumataw said that some *lumads* have started to stay away from their farms out of fear.

The human rights group Karapatan reported that the military has set up paramilitary units composed of *lumad* civilians in the whole region.

The more prominent of the *lumad* militia are the Alamara, which operates in Bukidnon, Davao del Norte, Arakan Valley, and Davao City; the Black Fighter, operating in Calinan and Marilog also in Davao City; Pulang Mandalangan Command in Kapalong and Talaingod, Davao del Norte, and the Alsa Lumad in Baganga and Cateel, Davao Oriental.

Earlier, the military claimed that the Alsa Lumad was created because members of the indigenous communities themselves asked for it.

It was patterned after the successful Alsa Masa that grew in the early 1980s, which ushered the end of the communists' grip in the urban centers, particularly Davao City.

However, Datu Babe Penjo, another *lumad* leader, said paramilitary units would not bring development to their villages.

What the tribes need, he said, are schools and health centers.

Ruben Enayag, vice chair of the Malinawong Bukid Pinuy-anan sa Lumad (MBPL), said that originally, the term Alamara is a *lumad* term loosely translated as "warriors in defense of the ancestral domain."

"Nobody is trying to take their lands away from them. Why should they create the Alamara?" Enayag said. ***Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Cell phones kept troopers on duty closer to home

BACOLOD CITY—The cellular phone kept more than 200 soldiers from Negros Occidental closer to home during their deployment to Mindanao, from where they arrived to a warm welcome here on Thursday.

Lt. Col. Ivan Samarita, 11th IB commanding officer, said being away from home, especially during the Yuletide Season, is a sad reality that soldiers have to face.

He said their longing to be with their loved ones was partly solved by the cellular phone. He said soldiers would send text messages or call their families during lulls in fighting with the extremist group.

Samarita recalled that his soldiers familiarized themselves with the rugged terrain of Basilan while searching for a spot to secure a signal so they could transmit their messages.

More than 200 soldiers from the 11th Infantry Battalion returned to Negros Occidental on Thursday, more than three months after their deployment to Mindanao.

A warm welcome greeted the soldiers as they stepped down from the C-130 Air Force cargo plane at the Bacolod City Airport.

Their wives and children carried placards and streamers, describing the soldiers as "Defenders of Negros."

The soldiers would temporarily re-occupy their old headquarters in Barangay La Granja, La Carlota City, about 45 kilometers south of this city, while waiting for orders on where they would be assigned on Negros Island.

Other members of the 11th IB were expected to arrive in Negros Occidental this week on board a Navy boat.

About 400 11th IB soldiers were deployed to Mindanao in September last year after the then Estrada administration declared an "all-out war" against Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Military records said about 70 percent of the 11th IB soldiers are Ilonggos.

The same records also showed that there were no casualties among the 11th IB soldiers although some were treated for malaria.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

'Seafood capital' in distress

BY GERRY T. PAGHARION
Roxas City

WONDER why the price of your favorite *sugpo* or prawn shot up from P300 to as high as P700 a kilo last Christmas?

The reason is certainly disheartening: The supply from Capiz, which accounts for about 40 percent of prawns sold in Divisoria, was not only dwindling but was practically wiped out. The culprit?

A still unknown viral disease that struck Capiz's prawn farms.

The problem ironically erupted at a time when there was a great demand for the commodity, *sugpo* being a favorite fare of Filipinos on special occasions like Christmas and New Year.

Sylvia de la Cruz, officer in charge of the provincial agriculture office, estimated that prawn growers have lost at least P100 million due to the prawn kill.

Capiz is claiming to the "Seafood Capital of the Philippines" for having the best quality marine products. Among the provinces on Panay Island, it has also the largest area devoted to fishponds (33,000 hectares).

Capiceños here still recall that when then President Corazon Aquino visited Capiz in 1987, she marveled at the "giant *sugpo*" served to her by fishpond operator Antonio Ortiz who, together with the prominent Roxas clan here, hosted a lunch for the then President and her party.

American Ambassador to the Philippines Thomas Hubbard also once declared that the best seafood he had tasted so far were those from Capiz. In fact, during his visit to the province three years ago, Hubbard had a grand time savoring the province's prawns, oysters, and other kinds of seafood.

Sunshine industry no more?

The province has been exporting every month 100 tons of world-class quality prawns. Some 30 tons of other marine products are also being shipped out of the province daily for domestic consumption.

However, doubts have been aired on whether or not the province can still meet such a demand considering that its prawn industry is now in bad shape.

Prawn growers expressed alarm over what they call a very serious "mass mortality" of prawns. They said this was the "worst tragedy" that had befallen what is considered as Capiz's "sunshine industry."

Sometime in August 1991, a similar phenomenon hit the prawn-growing industry of Capiz. It was traced to a bacterial disease found to have been caused by river pollution, particularly along the Tinagong Dagat Bay in Pontevedra town.

But the problem was not as grave as it is now because prawn growers then had time to harvest and sell the prawns before they got wiped out. Still, the loss to prawn growers was placed at P50 million.

Then, the prawns that were attacked by what has become known as "luminous bacteria" died gradually. This time, the death was quick and sudden that prawn growers were left with no way to recover their investment.

Also, the 1991 prawn malady only affected fishponds along the Tinagong Dagat Bay, while the current disease killing prawns was reported not just by prawn growers operating along the bay but also by those in other parts of the province.

About two thirds of fishponds in the province are along the Tinagong Dagat Bay, an estuary of the approximately 98-kilometer Panay River. A major river system in Capiz, Panay River emanates from the mountain ranges of Tapaz town, about 62 km from Roxas City, and passes through several towns before it empties into the sea.

Considered prawn-producing areas of the province are Roxas City and the towns of Panay, President Roxas, Pontevedra and Pilar.

The gloomy situation in the early 1990s forced many prawn growers in Capiz to shift to *bangus* culture and the growing of other marine products. But from 1999 until 2001, prawn growers bounced back and once again cashed in on the booming prospect of the industry. Until the latest viral disease again caught them by surprise.

Unheeded advice

In November 1992, the Society of Aquaculture Engineers of the Philippines (SAEP) held its seventh annual business and scientific meeting in Roxas City to analyze the problems prevailing in the Tinagong Dagat Bay.

SAEP, a nonstock, non-profit organization of engineers actively engaged in aquaculture projects and biologists with interest in aquaculture engineering practice, came up with a report in February 1993 on what ailed the Tinagong Dagat Bay area.

The report said the bay was "shallow, highly silted, with slow water movement and with minimal water exchange, turbid, highly entropic and with a greatly diminished capacity to absorb wastes and replenish its oxygen content."

The deaths of prawns around the bay "was not a simple cause-and-effect relationship, but rather a small part of a complex interrelationship in a large unstable ecosystem that is deteriorating at a significant rate," the report said.

It further noted that the muddy bottom of Tinagong Dagat indicates a long history of siltation that has been aggravated by the development of the shrimp farms.

Some 60 fishponds were earlier found to have set up illegal dikes that constricted the river's flow.

The SAEP mentioned in its report that tests made on dead prawns conducted by the Fish Health Section of the Department of Agriculture showed that the prawns suffered from inflammation of the lymphoid organ that was attributed to the environmental pollution along the bay.

SAEP had come up with four short-term recommendations: Skip at least one shrimp cropping season to break the chain of infection and allow the ecosystem to regenerate; remove obstructions in the river by demolishing illegal dikes and relocating fish traps that impede the water flow; regulate artificial feeding to reduce the amount of organic matter in pond effluents; and increase the use of natural food for shrimps.

De la Cruz said these recommendations were hardly followed by prawn growers whom she described as "hard headed."

Today, prawn growers are again reeling from the effects of the prawn kill.

Greed

Municipal Trial Court Judge Edward Contreras, a long time owner and operator of a 7-hectare fishpond, lost at least P300,000 when his prawn stock was wiped out by the still unnamed disease.

Contreras revealed that "greedy" prawn growers resorted to overstocking their ponds. He noted, for instance, that one prawn grower put in some 1.5 million fry in his ponds when the ponds could only hold 500,000 fry.

As the prawn kill phenomenon continues to unleash its wrath on Capiz prawn farms, Gov. Vicente Bermejo has commissioned experts from the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec) based in Tigbauan, Iloilo to look into the matter.

A six-man team from the Seafdec's research department headed by Dr. Clarissa Marty is set to arrive in Capiz next week to conduct water samples in the province's waterways.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DA

SAMPLES of prawns struck by the still unidentified disease.

Waking up to reality

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonardia

BACOLOD folk woke up from the euphoria of the Christmas celebration to find themselves literally snowed under by piles upon piles of garbage uncollected for weeks and festering near markets, schools, offices and residences.

Is this the city that has been declared "cleanest and greenest" twice by the national government?, residents asked each other. Another surprise awaits them because the incumbent administration of Mayor Luzviminda Valdez is still expecting to win the same crown, having gone to some lengths to assure it.

The heaps of trash all over the city, however, give the administration another justification for the hiring of casual workers who, it has been pointed out, are the ones who had been literally doing the dirty job. A spokesman of the Department of Public Services has explained to reporters that, because of the lack of such workers, they just clean the main streets, the visible areas.

Several parts of this supposedly highly urbanized city have now built up Smokey Mountains of their own by burning uncollected trash.

One wonders where the special taxes for garbage collection have been going.

But garbage is only one of the problems here. As of this writing, the city's budget has not yet been approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod after three sessions.

SP members are apparently suspicious of the budgetary priorities of the executive and have been vocal about it. Among the tough issues is the practice of appointing casuals, or what is known as "job-order workers" without prior appropriation, leading to resentment among hundreds of unpaid workers who hounded city hall in vain during the holidays.

The administration tried to distract both media and disgruntled taxpayers by seizing pornographic materials sold on the sidewalks. The ploy backfired, however, when local media pointed out that the dirty magazines and *komiks* bothered them less than the smelly garbage on their streets did.

To make matters worse, the Central Negros Electric Cooperative is haranguing Bacolod City for P36 million in unpaid electric bills, and had cut off power to the slaughterhouse, the BAYS Center and the vendors market. Its linemen were set to also cut City Hall off, but the Ceneco president, a known supporter of the mayor, gave in and allowed another grace period.

That was quite charitable for Ceneco because it is also facing disconnection from the National Power Corp. for its unpaid P220 million bill. There is now a move from a group called Negros Consumers Watch to call for the ouster of Ceneco officials whom they tagged "incompetent."

* * *

Disgust among consumers was also fuelled by the recent imposition of penalties on delayed payments.

It is not only Bacolod City that started the New Year with such burdens. In the province of Negros Occidental, a running word war between some top-ranking officials and the local graft watch head has escalated into charges that found their way into the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas.

One case involved the purchase by provincial officials in the Panaad Village of lots, based on an ordinance passed by the previous administration. The incoming one promptly raised questions on the legality and morality of the lot purchases and the Ombudsman has gotten into the picture.

There is also the case of pieces of equipment worth P20 million that had been acquired by the previous administration, of which about P10 million worth had been donated to the fifth district of the province. Aside from questioning the donation, the incumbent officials also claimed that the pieces of equipment did not meet specifications. The case has also gotten to the Ombudsman.

It may be a long time before the cases are resolved, but another problem has come up for the province, now headed by former Sagay mayor Joseph Marañon. Eight of the present members of the Provincial Board are included in the charges. In case the Ombudsman decides to suspend them while the case is pending, the board will not have a quorum for its sessions. One wonders how the bureaucracy will function then.

* * *

But both Bacolod City and Negros Occidental have a common problem as far as their appointed legal officers are concerned. The Bacolod mayor had picked her personal lawyer, Vicente Sabornay, as city legal officer. But within a few months, questions came up about Sabornay's continued private practice. In fact, it was pointed out, one of the cases he was handling was against Bacolod City. The SP members demanded that he stop his private practice, but Sabornay refused. After declaring loss of confidence in him, the SP also excluded his name from the city's budget proposal.

In the province, employees questioned the appointment of the provincial legal officer who, they claimed, is not qualified for the post. The battle of the employees was aided and abetted by Graftwatch head Dr. Patricio Tan, who has gleefully engaged the legal officer, Rayfrando Diaz, into what is expected to be a colorful *balagtasan*.

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GMA confirms but downplays coup attempts

(From page A1)

for the first year anniversary of People Power II

Ermita also confirmed the convening last Wednesday of a top-level "communication group" in Malacañang to help thwart plots to destabilize or overthrow the administration.

He said the group had received an intelligence report that supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada led by PMAP head Ronald Lumbao were planning a major mobilization on Jan. 19.

"We want to talk to their leaders," Ermita said in Filipino. "We will try to appeal to them not to sow disorder because this will only confuse the people."

Lumbao, who is facing criminal charges for last year's Labor Day attack on the Palace, is at large.

The President said she was confident the religious groups Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) and El Shaddai would not back the destabilization plot.

She said that even "moderate" opposition leaders like Senators Blas Ople, Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Edgardo Angara had denounced the plot, and that the Catholic Church and former President Fidel V. Ramos were behind her administration.

"So where are they going to get their forces to destabilize?" she said.

The INC had backed the pro-Estrada mass actions dubbed "Edsa Tres" that culminated in the siege of Malacañang. El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde was Estrada's spiritual adviser, although lately he has associated himself with Ms Macapagal.

Rumors, reports

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, AFP chief of staff, blamed the growing concern over the destabilization plot on the emphasis given to it in public discussions.

"The No. 1 source of destabilization is rumors about destabilization and reports of destabilization," he said yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo.

But while Villanueva pointed out that all talk about the plot should be stopped, he said he would not gag his commanders.

"There will be no gag order. Otherwise, the media (would be) squawking to high heavens," he said, noting that the free flow of information is protected by law.

Villanueva also confirmed Corpus' earlier report of recruitment of soldiers for destabilization moves.

"I can always confirm that there is recruitment," he said, adding that this had been going on "from time immemorial."

"But of what quantity is the recruitment?" Villanueva said. "Will it be enough to endanger all of us? That is the question."

He said that while plotters would always attempt recruitment "to determine who are with them and to strengthen their ranks," the matter had yet to reach a point "where it can be considered a threat."

Villanueva defended Corpus for disclosing the recruitment activities, saying the intelligence chief had the right to speak about the matter.

At the Focap forum, the President also dismissed criticisms that Corpus was spreading the coup scare.

"I think (the Isafp) is pretty well shaped up," she said. "That's why we didn't have a Dec. 30 (bombing) anniversary. And that's why many of these (plotters) are being caught with their pants down. Their movements are very, very limited now. Many of them have dropped out of the game, and that's why (the plot) is not going to succeed."

She said that while the political opposition was "vigorous" and "very articulate," she was sure that it would not support the destabilization plot.

"That's how stable our economy is," she said. "It's a freewheeling democracy where freedom of speech is really respected . . . But when it comes to the prospect of a violent takeover, nobody of great responsibility supports it."

Mayhem

Ermita said that according to the intelligence report received by the "communication group," PMAP and other groups behind the so-called "Edsa Tres" might "undertake mayhem" similar to the May 1 assault on Malacañang.

"We need to convince them to allow this government to undertake and continue its programs," he said. "Everything tends to be in that direction because we don't want to be confrontational."

He clarified that the group's meeting, over which he presided, was a "routine" procedure in view of the upcoming commemoration of People Power II amid the supposed destabilization plot.

"Of course we have to talk about it, evaluate it, and see what we can do so that the government will not be (taken by surprise)," Ermita said.

Villanueva, however, said: "I doubt if (the one) quoting the intelligence report can show (it). Let me say again that talking about destabilization is the No. 1 source of destabilization."

A source privy to the Wednesday meeting in Malacañang had furnished the INQUIRER a copy of the intelligence report.

On the other hand, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said they had received information that opposition groups were planning to hold their own activities to coincide with the government-led commemoration of the uprising that unseated Estrada.

"We do not expect trouble but we always anticipate the worst-case scenario," Adan said, adding that the military would put its forces on alert if needed.an "Edsa IV" is bound to fail, he said. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil, Armand N. Nocum, Cynthia D. Balana and Rocky Nazareno in Manila; Ruelle Albert D. Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Release me, Misuari asks high court

(From page A1)

charges filed against him by government prosecutors.

'Abducted'

So he claimed he was "in effect actually abducted" by Philippine officials led by Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Affairs Jesus Dureza and Police Director General Lucas Managuelod when he was fetched in Kuala Lumpur and subsequently brought to Manila last Monday.

"Nur Misuari didn't complain when police took his fingerprints and pictures, how come his own lawyers are now protesting his arrest and detention?" countered Managuelod, the head of the Philippine National Police Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management.

At the Fort Sto. Domingo, a police training camp, in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, police booked Misuari, including taking his photographs and fingerprints, Managuelod said.

"And he didn't object, he didn't offer any resistance. That means he knew there was a warrant for his arrest," he said, noting that Misuari's followers were likewise subjected to similar procedures in a jail facility in Bicutan, Taguig, where they are detained.

It was Managuelod who filed the rebellion charges against Misuari and 17 others at Branch 3 of the Regional Trial Court in Jolo, Sulu, in November last year, and who fetched him from Malaysia on Monday.

Malaysian authorities handed Misuari and seven of his followers over to Philippine officials more than a month after they were nabbed in Kuala Lumpur for illegal entry.

Managuelod also justified his action to serve the arrest warrant on Misuari only when they reached the Philippines and not when they were still in Malaysia.

"We can't serve the warrant of arrest on foreign soil. We only went there to fetch Misuari to bring him back (to the Philippines). Now when we reached Philippine soil, we informed him that a warrant of arrest was issued against him for the crime of rebellion," he said.

No copy of complaint

"But up to now, petitioner has not received any subpoena or notice of any sort, nor was he served copy of the complaint or information filed in any court against him," Misuari insisted in his petition.

Misuari admitted hearing reports that he was charged with rebellion before a court in Jolo but claimed he was served a copy of the supposed warrant of arrest only on the evening of Jan. 9 at his detention cell "after (I) was forcibly taken from Kuala Lumpur."

"Under the rules, we are not required to show the warrant. What's important was that he was informed that there's a warrant for his arrest," Managuelod explained.

It was only on Jan. 9 that police officers had the warrant received and signed by Misuari in the presence of his lawyer Ely Pamatong.

The man who brought Misuari to the negotiating table, former President Fidel V. Ramos, supported the government position to prosecute him for rebellion as this was in accordance to the law, he said.

Ramos said Misuari had committed "very grave mistakes" and advised him to straighten out his act to preserve his legacy of fighting for Muslim autonomy.

Speaker Jose de Venecia also called on Misuari to ask his followers to "put an end to their rebellion" and for him to submit to the justice system.

It was Ramos who ended the 27-year separatist movement by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) when he signed a peace agreement with the MNLF in 1996. For this, Ramos jointly received with Misuari the Unesco peace prize in 1997 given by the general membership of the United Nations.

Ramos categorically pinned down Misuari for his links with the Abu Sayyaf and for directing the uprising that killed about 100 people shortly before elections for new officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao were held in November last year.

Tragic mistakes

"The call for further violence that was announced by Nur and the bombardment of the 104th Infantry Brigade were very tragic mistakes on his part," Ramos said in a forum after he presented a report of the International Commission on Intervention and State (ICISS) sovereignty titled "Responsibility to Protect."

Ramos said that when Misuari felt that he was no longer the administration candidate for ARMM governor, "he started meeting with leaders of the Abu Sayyaf" from his base in Jolo, Sulu.

"And this was one of his mistakes because the Abu Sayyaf Group had already been listed as one of the international terrorist organizations by the United States," Ramos said in the Manila-launch of the ICISS report.

But in his petition for habeas corpus to the Supreme Court, Misuari claimed he was being singled out and "denied equal protection of the law."

He said since the country had not been placed under martial law, "the confinement of the petitioner under the circumstances above narrated is utterly illegal."

Misuari asked the SC to direct Interior Secretary Joey Lina, PNP chief Leandro Mendoza and the Camp Commander of Fort Sto. Domingo, to appear before the SC "and produce the body of the petitioner, and explain fortwith why petitioner should not be set liberty without delay."

Did not flee

To convince the court, Misuari also claimed he did not flee the country to evade prosecution for rebellion.

He said he left Sulu for Malaysia to protect himself from danger amid the "attack" of the military against the "Bangsamoro people," and to supposedly meet a four-man mission from the Organization of Islamic Conference. ***With reports from the PDI Mindanao Bureau and Dona Pazzibugan.***

Ramos . . .

(From page A1)

"because I'm not that familiar with (her)."

He disclaimed involvement in the statements made by the three against the President, saying: "As the Bible says, am I my brother's keeper?"

He also said "they are not working under me right now."

Ramos said he was the adviser of Abat's group of retired military officers but that he was "not responsible for their statements, programs and projects."

But Ramos noted that Abat had also clarified his criticism of the President as an "off-the-cuff statement."

Ramos said he was part of the PCA "in helping remove President Estrada constitutionally."

"What they are doing now, I don't know," he said. "It is now their responsibility to do what they think should be done to remedy the situation. But it is completely wrong and unjustified to drag my name into every action and statement that they make."

The ex-President also stressed that no plots were being cooked up in the headquarters of the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation Inc. (RPDEV).

"This is not the headquarters of the Lakas faction opposing (Ms Macapagal)," he said. "This is not the headquarters of the coup plotters. This is not the headquarters for any wrongdoing or insidious plotting."

Speaker Jose de Venecia also said the statements coming from Montayre and Enriquez were only "sporadic and isolated comments made by some disgruntled job-seekers in government."

Ramos said Ms Macapagal's decision to have a state council to advise her is a welcome move in view of the problems besetting the country today.

He said his designation as council member was not an act of reconciliation on the part of the President "because there is no rift, in the first place."

The rumored rift is said to have been caused by Ramos' supposed plan to seek reelection in 2004.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., on the other hand, said he welcomed the formation of the Council of State, but he noted that "its effectiveness will depend on the advice that its members will give to the President, and her receptiveness to the advice."

"The council is only an advisory body, so we will not meet every week or every month," he said. "We will only meet upon the call of the President."

Pimentel also said that if he were not in detention facing plunder charges, disgraced ex-President Joseph Estrada would have been included in the Council of State that will serve to advise the President on "matters of national importance."

Pimentel said he had asked Ms Macapagal why he was included in the council, and was told that he qualified for the seat because he, among the opposition leaders, "held the highest elective position aside from being a former Senate president."

19 Aquila fratmen off the hook in Villa slay

(From page A1)

Ernesto Jose Montecillo, Santiago Ranada III, Zosimo Mendoza, Vicente Verdadero, Amante Purisima II, Jude Fernandez, Adel Abas and Percival Brigola.

The court modified the sentences on Vincent Tecson, Junel Anthony Ama, Antonio Mariano Almeda and Renato Bantug Jr. The charges against them were downgraded from homicide to slight physical injuries, which carried a penalty of only 20 days' imprisonment.

The court upheld the conviction of Fidelito Dizon and Artemio Villareal, who were found guilty of homicide after it was established that they were the ones who insisted on resuming the beatings of the neophytes after the initiation leader had declared the rites ended.

They were sentenced to a minimum of 10 years. The appellate court also ordered them to jointly pay P50,000 to the heirs of Villa and pay an additional P1 million for moral damages.

The decision made no mention of the 26th accused, Efren de Leon, who died of cancer in 1996 while the appeal was pending.

The decision was anchored on two grounds—that there was no conspiracy among the fraternity members, and that the neophytes, including Villa, "willingly and voluntarily consented to undergo physical initiation or hazing."

The court said the initiation rites were conducted "to test and inculcate in the neophytes a sense of commitment, strength of character and humility."

Lenny Villa's death led to the passage of the law that banned fraternity hazing. Initially, the government charged 35 fraternity members with homicide. Of the 35, only 26 were jointly tried.

In handing down the controversial ruling, the appellate justices said they were ready to face adverse criticisms from the public. They said the death of Villa was a tragedy and lamentable.

Not vengeance but justice

However, the Constitution and the law afford the accused the right to appeal (their) case, they said.

"And so we face the formidable task. Accordingly, after a judicious review of the facts and circumstances, we render our decision. We are certain that at some point, there might be some misgivings from the public as regards our findings. So be it. We will never be swayed by the public outcry for revenge for this court administers not vengeance but justice. In the end, what matters most is that justice is done, and so it must be," the court said.

Court records showed that in February 1991, Villa and his fellow law freshmen at the Ateneo de Manila University—Caesar Asuncion, Samuel Belleza, Bienvenido Marquez III, Roberto Francis Navera, Geronimo Randy Recinto and Felix Sy Jr.—signified their intention to join the fraternity.

Villa's father Romulo, then a collector of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, was said to have given his consent to Lenny's application for membership.

The appeals court said the neophytes "knew that the initiation rites would entail beatings and other forms of hazing. The deceased, Lenny Villa, even obtained the consent of his parents."

So on the night of Feb. 8, 1991, they were brought by fraternity masters to the Almeda compound, where they were paddled and beaten up as part of the initiation rites.

The following day, the beatings continued until the rites were officially terminated. But before the neophytes were allowed to take a rest, Dizon and Villareal arrived and demanded to reopen the rites.

Victorino, head of the initiation rites, refused at first to resume the initiation, but to no avail. Thus the neophytes were again subjected to beatings with the use of a paddle. Villa and Bienvenido Marquez III, another neophyte who was hospitalized after the rites, were separated from the others.

After the beatings, Villa could no longer walk and had to be carried to the carport. When he started moaning and complained of intense pain, Dizon and Villareal barred the other neophytes from helping him, the court said.

DOA

When Villa's condition worsened, he was taken to the nearby Chinese General Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

Doctors said Villa suffered from multiple abrasions, contusions and multiple-hematoma. He died of cardiac failure resulting from multiple traumatic injuries.

The court said the neophytes were still "in relatively good shape" when the rites were terminated. But the beatings delivered by Dizon and Villareal were "marked by excessive violence and clearly overstepped the parameters established by the fraternity to ensure safe initiation," CA noted.

Both Dizon and Villareal apparently had grudges against Villa and Marquez, the court said.

"The two appellants were apparently motivated by ill-will as Dizon, while beating Villa, kept saying that the father of Villa stole the parking space of his father. Villareal, on the other hand, suspected that Marquez's family had a hand in the death of his father," the CA said.

On Nov. 26, 1993, Judge Adoracion Angeles of the Caloocan Regional Trial Court, Branch 121 found the accused "guilty beyond reasonable doubt" and sentenced them to a minimum of 10 years and a maximum of 14 years imprisonment.

In their appeal, the accused claimed, among other things, that there was no conspiracy and contested the decision of the trial court to hold them liable for violation of Article 4 of the Revised Penal Code.

In its decision, the CA said the participation of Aquilans differed in degree and character, thus the need to go over each member's participation in the initiation rites.

The CA found Tecson, Ama, Almeda and Bantug Jr. had inflicted "more than the usual punishment undertaken during such initiation rites on the person of Villa.".

The case, which dragged on for almost 11 years, was celebrated because the fraternity's alumni included prominent members of the judiciary and most of the accused were scions of prominent families.

The original judge inhibited himself from the case.

Later in the Court of Appeals, several justices at one time or another inhibited themselves from reviewing the case. One justice was a member of Aquila Legis, one was a classmate of Villa's father, another had denounced hazing while an RTC judge and several others were related one way or another to the accused.

It was also handled by different divisions of the court and was raffled and reraffled several times to different justices.

When it was up for promulgation, Justice Demetrio Demetria, the ponente (the one assigned to write the decision), was suspended and was subsequently dismissed by the Supreme Court for intervening in the case of a suspected drug trafficker who was later convicted.

While their conviction was on appeal, several of the accused took the bar and passed although they could not become full-fledged lawyers until after the final resolution of the case. Some found employment, even in Malacañang, as in the case of Victorino, who worked at the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office during the term of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Purisima, whose uncle Fidel Purisima was one of the justices who inhibited himself from the case, was elected mayor of San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur. He was reelected last year. Flores worked in the office of Cavite Rep. Plaridel Abaya and Bantug in the staff of Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Villareal, as of December 2000, was with the policy planning and legal office of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Gloria disowns . . .

(From page A1)

She said it involved a more comprehensive plan to use the interest generated by the coco levy assets under the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF).

Tiglao on Wednesday said the government and Cojuangco had reached an interim agreement over SMC. Under the deal, he said, the five nominees of deposed President Joseph Estrada to the SMC board of directors would yield to Ms Macapagal's nominees.

In exchange, the government will allow Cojuangco to continue to run the SMC. He will also let government representatives sit in crucial committees such as compensation and bidding.

The deal also provides that the government will drop its objections to the five-year voting trust agreement between Cojuangco and Japanese brewer Kirin, which recently bought 15 percent of SMC for $540 million.

Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), also debunked Tiglao's announcement that there was a finalized interim arrangement between the government and Cojuangco.

"There is no interim agreement yet between SMC and PCGG. We (PCGG and SMC) have been talking, however, because of the decision of the Supreme Court," Yorac said in a press briefing yesterday. "There are areas of agreement (though) that we have identified," she said.

Yorac said that the PCGG still had no final definite stand on the SMC-Kirin deal.

Yorac said that she had already written former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, explaining to him that there was still no agreement between SMC and the government.

"So there is nothing that we can give him, because there is nothing," she said, in response to his demand that the PCGG reveal the details of the agreement.

Chavez has threatened to seek the deal's nullification before the Supreme Court if he finds its provisions onerous and against public interest.

The President denied any "exchange deal" between Cojuangco and the government.

"I don't think it's an exchange deal. As I see it, San Miguel is San Miguel. It has good value and the business community speaks through the stock market . . . As a good macro-economic manager I respect that," she said.

She said the government had dropped its proposal for a "trilateral voting agreement" between SMC, Kirin and the government because it ran against "free enterprise."

The government had wanted the trilateral voting agreement to replace the one between SMC and Kirin, where Kirin committed to vote its shares with Cojuangco for the next five years.

The President said she was more interested in using the coco levy funds in the control of the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB).

"As far as I'm concerned, my interest (lies there) because hopefully within a short period of time, the farmers finally can feel they're getting their micro-finance (loans) from the coco levy funds," she said.

The government is poised to install its nominees in the UCPB following a favorable Supreme Court ruling last month.

Malacañang said it expected to tap at least P700 million in CIIF dividends controlled by UCPB. The money will reportedly be used for lending and for a copra price support.

Tiglao could not be reached after the forum.

Malacañang disclosed the existence of the "interim agreement" after the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Only Mayor Tom can smoke at City Hall

(From page A1)

the mayor is apparently exempted from this diminution in work capacity.

City Hall and its satellite offices have been declared non-smoking areas, except for the Office of the Mayor, where the occupant is a known smoker.

In a memorandum dated Jan. 3, city administrator Nigel Paul Villarete directed department heads that all areas in City Hall, including the toilets, the corridors and the rooftop, would remain smoke-free zones unless otherwise declared by him and Mayor Tomas Osmeña.

"Cigarette smoking in public places, particularly in close quarters like the office, does not contribute and even diminish the work performance of the city government personnel and in varying degrees (causes) a discomfort to some members of the public," the memorandum said.

But Osmeña was not about to give up his smoking.

The mayor declared his office and the adjacent conference room as smoking zones although smoking remains prohibited in the reception area of the mayor's office.

Villarete told the INQUIRER that there was nothing wrong if Osmeña decided to exempt his office from the memorandum.

The mayor's smoking, he added, would not cause inconvenience to anybody because he is the only one staying in his room.

"Besides," Villarete said, "his office has an exhaust fan."

Osmeña consumes at least one pack of his favorite Champion Blue cigarettes a day, sources close to the mayor told the INQUIRER.

During his daily press conferences, the mayor usually consumes one to two sticks of cigarettes while answering questions from local reporters.

The mayor holds office on the eighth floor of the new City Hall building located at the back of the old building on Magallanes Street.

When his office was being renovated a month before he assumed office on July 1, Osmeña demanded that exhaust fans be installed in his office and the conference room, sources said.

An exhaust fan was placed in his office, and two in the conference room. Whenever the mayor was expected to preside over meetings, his staff would prepare an ashtray for him without being told to do so, sources said.

Gloria rating dips; pollster fears apathy

(From page A1)

cent), which has been the public's top concern the past two years.

Other concerns of the people were great poverty (36 percent), high prices of basic necessities (35 percent) and low pay of workers (33 percent).

The survey showed that public approval for President Macapagal dropped 6 percentage points from 63 percent in October to 57 percent in December.

All classes

Although Ms Macapagal continues to have a majority approval (more than 50 percent), her ratings "depreciate(d) in all geographic areas and all socioeconomic classes," Pulse Asia said.

Pulse Asia said the most notable declines in her public approval were encountered in Metro Manila among the ABC classes and those belonging to class E.

The general drop in the President's approval rating can be traced to the perceived deterioration of the people's lives across all classes.

"Across all socioeconomic classes, whether one speaks of the nation's well-off class ABC families or those belonging to the practically poor class D and the poorest class E, the material quality of life has worsened rather than improved the past year," Pulse Asia said.

Difficult times

"Already, difficult times continue to worsen for most Filipinos as those who experience deterioration in their quality of life within the last 12 months (the 'losers,' 53 percent) outnumber those reporting an improvement (the 'gainers,' 15 percent) by a ratio of nearly 4 to 1," the polling firm said.

It noted that poorer Filipinos suffered more than the well-off.

Most respondents are not optimistic that their quality of life will improve this year although Pulse Asia reported a net optimism of plus 6 in December, an improvement from the overall pessimism (negative 2) registered in October 2000.

Thirty-four percent of the respondents said they expected an improvement in their quality of life in 2002, while 28 percent said it would worsen. A plurality of 35 percent predicted no change.

Despite the economic difficulties, people's trust in Ms Macapagal "continues to hold with a slim majority (52 percent)." But Pulse Asia said "one must note the high proportion (30 percent) of those who are unable to make up their minds whether to trust or distrust her."

Vulnerable

"In view of this public vacillation, her current majority trust level must be viewed as quite vulnerable to much erosion," it said.

Although her ratings dropped, one out of five respondents said the President was one of the country's leaders "who could be trusted most to improve the condition of most Filipinos."

The survey has a confidence level of 95 percent and a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent for findings at the national level and plus or minus 6 percent at the regional level.

Sampras, Agassi in Kooyong final

MELBOURNE, Australia—Pete Sampras intends trying a couple of new things when he resumes one of the great tennis rivalries against Andre Agassi in the final of the Kooyong International here Saturday. Sampras set up his 33rd career meeting with Agassi with a 6-2, 7-6 (7/5) win over Australian Scott Draper in a semi-final Friday after Agassi beat Sweden's Thomas Enqvist in three sets on Thursday. *AFP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: US NCAA—Georgia Tech vs Duke at 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. (r) and Virginia vs North Carolina tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN
NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r – 6 p.m.) on Star Sports
NBA —San Antonio Spurs vs Philadelphia 76ers at 8 a.m. (r – 6:30 p.m.) on Star Sports and Portland Trailblazers vs Miami Heat at 2:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN
POOL: World Pool League 2001 at 8 p.m. on ESPN

CONE MAY REPLACE AILING RON

Jacobs out; PBA shops for new coach

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE BATTLE plan mapped out by Ron Jacobs for this year's Asian Games turned to dust after the PBA decided yesterday to scrap the whole program.

Finally, it also removed the 59-year-old bedridden American as coach of the RP Team.

PBA officials arrived at the decision after receiving a medical bulletin from the doctors that Jacobs, even if he recovers in time, wouldn't be able to carry the stress and pressure brought about by coaching.

"The medical bulletin on Jacobs indicated that we deemed it best to discontinue the preparations for the Asian Games pending the appointment of a new coach," said PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino.

He declined to name the candidates who will most likely replace Jacobs but a source bared to the INQUIRER that Alaska coach Tim Cone is strongly being favored as a substitute.

Red Bull's Yeng Guiao, Perry Ronquillo of Shell and San Miguel Beer's Jong Uichico were also being considered as worthy replacements.

"Though progressing by the day, the condition of coach Ron offers no definite timetable as to his return, hence, the suspension of his program," said Bernardino.

Jacobs was still confined at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the St. Lukes Medical Center.

"We count on all of our fans to continue praying for the recovery of Mr. Jacobs and we thank all those players who showed up and expressed willingness to play for flag and country in the Asian Games," said Bernardino.

The PBA, through interim coach Jong Uichico of San Miguel Beer, halted yesterday's tryouts and announced that the league had chosen to scrap the whole program and shop for another coach.

Meanwhile, Yancy De Ocampo, Rafi Reavis, Omanzie Rodriguez and Chester Tolomia lead the list of qualified applicants for Sunday's rookie annual draft.

League officials slashed the number of aspirants almost into half, from 81 to 49, as most of the hopefuls failed to produce the necessary documents for eligibility.

Only six out of the 17 Fil-foreign players who applied in the draft submitted their Department of Justice clearances while some MBA players failed to get the release documents from their mother teams.

The six Fil-Americans were in danger of being pruned down to four as PBA officials deemed the documents submitted by Tom Arceño and Francis Rauschmayer as questionable.

Pumaren stays with FedEx for ₱7.2M

FEDEX yesterday assumed the rest of Derick Pumaren's remaining two-year contract with Tanduay worth P7.2 million.

It also said it would grab Yancy de Ocampo as its first draft pick on Sunday after Romel Adducul failed to get his release papers from the MBA.

Pumaren and FedEx president Lito Alvarez inked the deal Thursday evening at the Edsa Plaza Hotel.

Pumaren will bring along his brother Dindo and assistants Gie Abanilla, Jun Tiongco and physical conditioning coach Dan Rose.

"I'm very happy with the outcome of the negotiations. We will try to form a competitive team as soon as possible," said Pumaren.

At the moment, only Dindo Pumaren and Wynne Arboleda were assured of slots at FedEx.

FedEx sent Jeffrey Cariaso and Freddie Abuda to Coca Cola for the Tigers' No. 8 pick and a future second draft choice.

Noli Locsin and Bong Hawkins were placed on the trading block less than a week ago.

Some of the players, Alvarez said, would be coming from the draft while a handful would be acquired through trade.

June Navarro

24 players nominated to cage Hall of Fame

AFTER much debate and deliberations, 24 players of the past have been finally nominated for inclusion in the third induction ceremony of the National Basketball Hall of Fame set for next month. They are (in alphabetical order):

Bogs Adornado, Manolet Araneta, Kurt Bachmann, Charlie Badion, Rafael Barreto, Florentino Bautista, Orlando Bauzon, Loreto Carbonell, Gerry Cruz, Fortunato Co, Eddie Decena, Jose Mari Iglesias, Eddie Lim, Luis "Moro" Lorenzo, Ramon Manulat, Alfonso "Boy" Marquez, Jaime Mariano, Eduardo Pacheco, Adriano Papa, Francisco Rabat, Pons Saldaña, Louie Tabuena, Cadie Tanquintic and Mariano "Nano" Tolentino.

A total of 53 names, including the popular Robert Jaworski, now a senator; and Ramon Fernandez, both PBA luminaries during their time, was actually submitted to the Hall of Fame Steering Committee chaired by executive director Rep. and now Bukidnon Gov. Joe Zubiri.

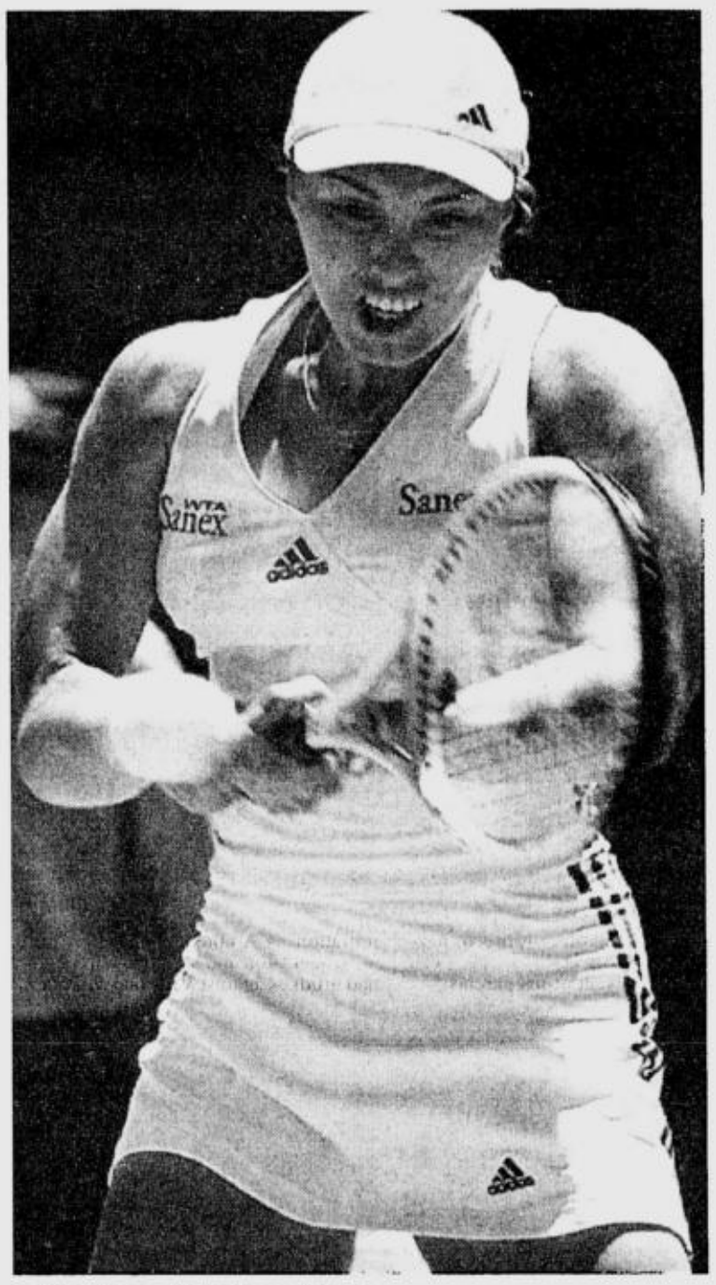
But after the experts' comments and opinions were digested, the committee came up with a list of 24. This number will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for the final selection process. The Board of Trustees is headed by respected businessmen-sportsmen Manolo Lopez of Meralco and Fernando Zobel de Ayala of Ayala Corp., chair and vice chair, respectively.

"Jaworski and Fernandez, together with the other younger basketball greats of their era, were not included in the list of nominees because they are not yet eligible for nomination since one of the criteria of the Hall of Fame Foundation is that a candidate must have retired from active playing for 10 years," said Zubiri.

"Thus, they still have to wait for a few more years before they could qualify for nomination."

The other criteria are: the candidate must be an outstanding player of his time and he must be of good moral character.

This new batch of nominees was selected after a series of meetings held during the last several months by the Steering Committee as well as consultations with veteran sportswriters who covered the games of these candidates and other personalities knowledgeable in basketball of the past era. Also carrying much weight was the nomination from the public coursed through their letter/endorsements to the Hall of Fame secretariat. Everyone is enjoined to share his or her views/comments by communicating with: Gov. Jose R. Zubiri Jr., Executive Director, National Basketball Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc., Suite 813, V. Madrigal Building, 6793 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, tel. 810-2296.



NO MISS 'SWISS MISS'

Martina "Swiss Miss" Hingis unleashes a backhand en route to beating Belgium's Kim Clijsters, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, in the semifinals yesterday of the Adidas International netfest in Sydney. Hingis will meet the winner of the match between Serena Williams and Meghann Shaugnessy. In men's semis, Argentine Juan Ignacio Chela became the first qualifier to make a Sydney final when he beat Max Mirnyi of Belarus 6-4, 6-4. The 22-year-old Argentine will play No. 2 seed Roger Federer of Switzerland, who beat No. 3 Andy Roddick, 7-6 (3), 6-4, on Saturday for the title. AP

Shark, ICTSI face separate foes

BY DENNIS U. EROA

LEADERS Shark Energy Drink and International Container Terminal Services Inc-La Salle try to fortify their respective semifinal bids as they clash with different foes today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark Energy	8	4
ICTSI-La Salle	8	4
Welcoat Paints	8	5
Blu Detergent	7	6
Kutitap Toothpaste	7	6
Ateneo-Pioneer	4	8
Ana Freezers	4	8
Montaña Jewels	4	9

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs Shark
4 p.m.—Ana vs ICTSI-La Salle

Victories by both the Energy Drink Kings and the Archers will move them to within a win of snaring the top two places at the end of the double-round elimination series.

Shark, which is eyeing its second straight Challenge Cup crown, meets skidding Ateneo-Pioneer at 2 p.m., while ICTSI-La Salle tackles Ana Freezers at 4 p.m.

Coach Leo Austria cautions his charges not to take it easy against the Insurers, who have the tendency to lose steam at crunchtime. "This isn't the time to lower our guards. Ateneo-Pioneer can spring a surprise," said Austria.

Leading Shark attack are playmakers Michael Robinson and Warren Ybañez, Chester Tolomia, Rysal Castro, Rolly Basilides and Gerald Ortega.

Like Ateneo-Pioneer, Ana badly needs to win in order to stay alive for a quarterfinal berth. The Freezer Kings bowed to the Energy Drink Kings, 84-67, last Tuesday.

ICTSI pins its hopes on Mike Cortez, Alvin Castro, Adonis Sta. Maria, Willy Wilson, Dominic Uy and Rommel Daep.

Alas Letran coach

LESS than two months after resigning from Talk N Text, Louie Alas returns to coaching when he handles the Letran Knights in this year's NCAA basketball tournament.

Fr. Ed Alaurin, Letran's athletic moderator, offered back Alas his former job yesterday. Alas steered the Knights to the NCAA title in the 1998 season before moving over to the Manila Metrostars, whom he also piloted to the MBA national title. Alas also guided the Philippines to the 1999 SEA Games crown before taking over Talk N Talk, which he handled for four conferences in the PBA.

"This is really my dream. To teach young players again," said Alas. "With only six holdovers, this should be a rebuilding year for us, but if we can win so much the better."

SPORTSWATCH

Spring Oil topples Wang's Ball

REIGNING National Open champion Spring Cooking Oil toppled arch-rival Wang's Ball Club in double overtime, 101-96, Thursday night to gain a twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinals of the JV Ejercito Cup at the San Juan gym.

Joel Co, Rodel Manuel and Carlo Espiritu sparkled in the extension to give the Cooking Oil Masters of shooter Tac Padilla and Herbert de Jesus their seventh victory in eight games. Co led Spring's offensive with 22 points. Spring's other double-digit scorers were Manuel with 17, Espiritu (15), Allan de Castro (12) and Ricky Ricafuente (11). Spring will meet La Union at 4 p.m. today. The other semifinal match pits Boysen Paints against Wang's. **The scores: Spring (101)**—Co 22, Manuel 17, Espiritu 15, De Castro 12, Ricafuente 11, Buendia 8, Garcia 7, Reyes 2, Simpas 2, Lapena 2, Nabung 2, Alforque 1, Martinez 0 **Wang's (96)**—Gako 25, Perma 23, Malonzo 16, Orillosa 8, Magpantay 6, Jimenez 5, Tropa 5, Igloria 4, Claveria 4, Bunye 0, Piodo 0, Napa 0, Castañeda 0
Halftime: 45-38; Regulation: 76-all; 1st Overtime, 86-all

Mandaluyong derby final round today

THE "3RD Mandaluyong International 9-Cock Derby," which shattered all records at Mandaluyong Coliseum in terms of crowd attendance, enters its championship round at 5 p.m. today bannering some 66 fights. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo. From a field of 56 entries, only two remained unbeaten (4.5 points) after two days of intense battle: BL Intruder of Saipan cocker Jun Marasigan and AT LCC Apr. 2 and 4 of Alan Tan, Patrick Puno and Louie Cua. But close on their heels with four points each are Raymond Velayo and Butch Halili (Arnis Mater), Henry and (Dynasty), Vice Gov. Mario Espinosa (Ariba Masbate), Ashley Arayata and derby host Vic Yu (Agilahas), Chuck Berry, Tony Litonjua and Ram Lopez (Starwards Altuz) and Boy de Roca (New Guagua Coliseum). The champion stands to receive an elegant Silver Cup plus the cash prize at stake. Meanwhile, the "2nd Ucap/Blue Blade PE San Pablo 7-Cock derby" to be hosted by engineer Sonny Lagon and Pol Estrellado fires off on Tuesday and Thursday, Jan. 15 and 17. Submission of weights is on Monday, Jan. 14 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For other inquiries, please contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

Cadiente enters Andrada Cup semis

SECOND seed Julie Ann Cadiente of University of Santo Tomas marched into the girls' 18-under semifinals following a 6-1, 6-3 victory over No. 5 Tracy Bautista of Imus Institute yesterday in the 13th Andrada Cup Age Group Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Cadiente, also a member of the RP women's team, will meet unranked Bien Zoleta of Mary Hill College-Lucena, who scored a 6-2, 6-3 win over No. 6 Katrina Pamintuan of Poveda in the other quarterfinal match. Earlier, top seed Joseph Arcilla outclassed No. 7 Mark Louie Jorolan of Cebu, 6-1, 6-1, to lead the boys' 18-under semifinalists in this Group 2 event held in honor of Philta President Salvador Andrada. Also advancing were second seed Christian Cuarto, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over No. 6 Boris Jan Chavez of Letran and fourth pick Allan Ross Agulto, who beat No. 8 Miguel Narvaez, 6-3, 6-3.

Groom leads; Woods 5 shots down

WOODS

PARAPARAUMU BEACH, New Zealand— The wind began blowing at the Paraparaumu Beach links course Friday, making life difficult for the early players and bringing part of the field back to late starter Tiger Woods at the New Zealand Open. Australian amateur Adam Groom shot a 4-under 67 for a two-round total of 136,five strokes ahead of Woods, who shot a 70 Thursday and had a Friday afternoon teeoff on the 6,052-meter (6,618-yard) Paraparaumu Beach layout. *AP*

NBA RESULTS

Nets 108, Clippers 89; Trail Blazers 92, Heat 85; Jazz 83, Rockets 79; Nuggets 96, Cavaliers 91; Grizzlies 102, Suns 96; Mavericks 111, Knicks 89. *AP*

Gordon OKs Olongapo's MBA stint

THE METROPOLITAN Basketball Association received a big boost Thursday evening when the Olongapo Volunteers formalized their entry into the league.

Supported by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, the Volunteers are envisioned to be a vehicle to promote a sense of nationalism and belonging among Filipinos.

"I think it is very good for our country to have teams based in the cities and provinces," Gordon said. "It will create a sense of community, a sense of country. If, at the end of the game, they showed great sportsmanship, then you've got a very good example to our countrymen. I think we put this out not to create further tribalism, but to unite the country through sports and tourism."

Gordon, himself a former cheerleader with Ateneo, added that each region represented in the MBA should bring out its own distinct characteristics and values, the way volunteerism has become identified with Olongapo.

"The very fact that the name Olongapo Volunteers speaks volumes for our community, I think the other teams should call themselves something like the Olongapo Volunteers," the former city mayor continued. "Volunteerism is a history in Olongapo. We don't wait to be served. We just move forward, take responsibility without having to be told what to do. Like in the case of Pinatubo, like in the case of Subic, we do it without pay; we do it for the country."

Tanpinco formalizes win; 2 others prevail

CHOO Tze Huang of Singapore shot a final round 81, the Philippines' JR Tanpinco closed out with an 84 and Ji Sun Jang of South Korea carded a 74 yesterday to bag the major titles in the fifth Philippine International Junior Golf Championship.

Choo had earlier played the par 72, 6,774-yard (from the blue tees) Wack Wack Golf and Country Club East course with an 80, 82 and 77 for 320 to emerge overall champion among those who are 17 years and below.

"Tze Huang could have easily run away with the Class B crown but in the tournament, a player could not win two prizes," said Boy Cantada, president of the organizing Philippine Junior Golf Federation.

Tanpinco played his worst round after shooting a 75, 77 and 73, but it was more than enough to capture the overall title among those who are 18-21 years old with 309.

TANPINCO

Cantada held the awards ceremony at the newly inaugurated Cantada Sports Center in Taguig.

"I would like to thank all the participants, their parents, team officials, the Wack Wack board and our sponsors for their all-out support," Cantada said later. "See you next year."

The major sponsors for this year's championship were Cebu Pacific, Herma Group of Companies, Milo and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation.

Other backers were Airlift Asia, All Seasons Manpower Int'l Services, Inc., Bingo Bonanza, CRC Concrete Mix Corporation; Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall, Eaglecor Inc., EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Foren Corporation, Gilberto Duavit and Junior Golf Parents.

Anya Tanpinco, JR's younger sister, scored an 81 to capture the girls' Special Division championship with 252. Second was Thailand's Chataya Chanachai with an 84 and 257.

Sanawong and Mitrpanont combined for 156 to power Thailand to the team championship with 476. South Korea settled for second place with 155-484. Third was Philippines-Bacolod with 486.

Asian Chefs Golf tilt Jan. 13-15

THE 3rd Southeast Asian Chefs Golf Tournament gets under way Jan. 13-15 at two different venues.

Hosting the first round is the Tagaytay Midlands in Tagaytay City. The second round will be played at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

More than 120 participants representing various hotels and restaurants from the Philippines and its southeast Asian neighbors are seeing action in the tournament.

Also sending entries are Australia, Bahrain, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United States and Vietnam.

Supporting the golfest are LGT Bank in Liechtenstein, Snorre Food, Group Albert Spiess, Werdenberg Corp., Emmi International Ltd., Santis Delicatessen, CMC Caterplan and Mandarin Oriental Manila.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1987, Manny Tolentino beat Ringo Navarrosa, 6-3, 6-1, 6-4, to rule the men's singles in the 1st Dr. Pablo Olivarez Cup at the Olivarez courts in Parañaque. Also today in 1993, University of Mindanao defeated Rizal Memorial Colleges, 6-0, to capture the Davao Open women's softball crown at the UM Matina field in Davao City.

WOLFPAC

PERSONALIZED GREETINGS

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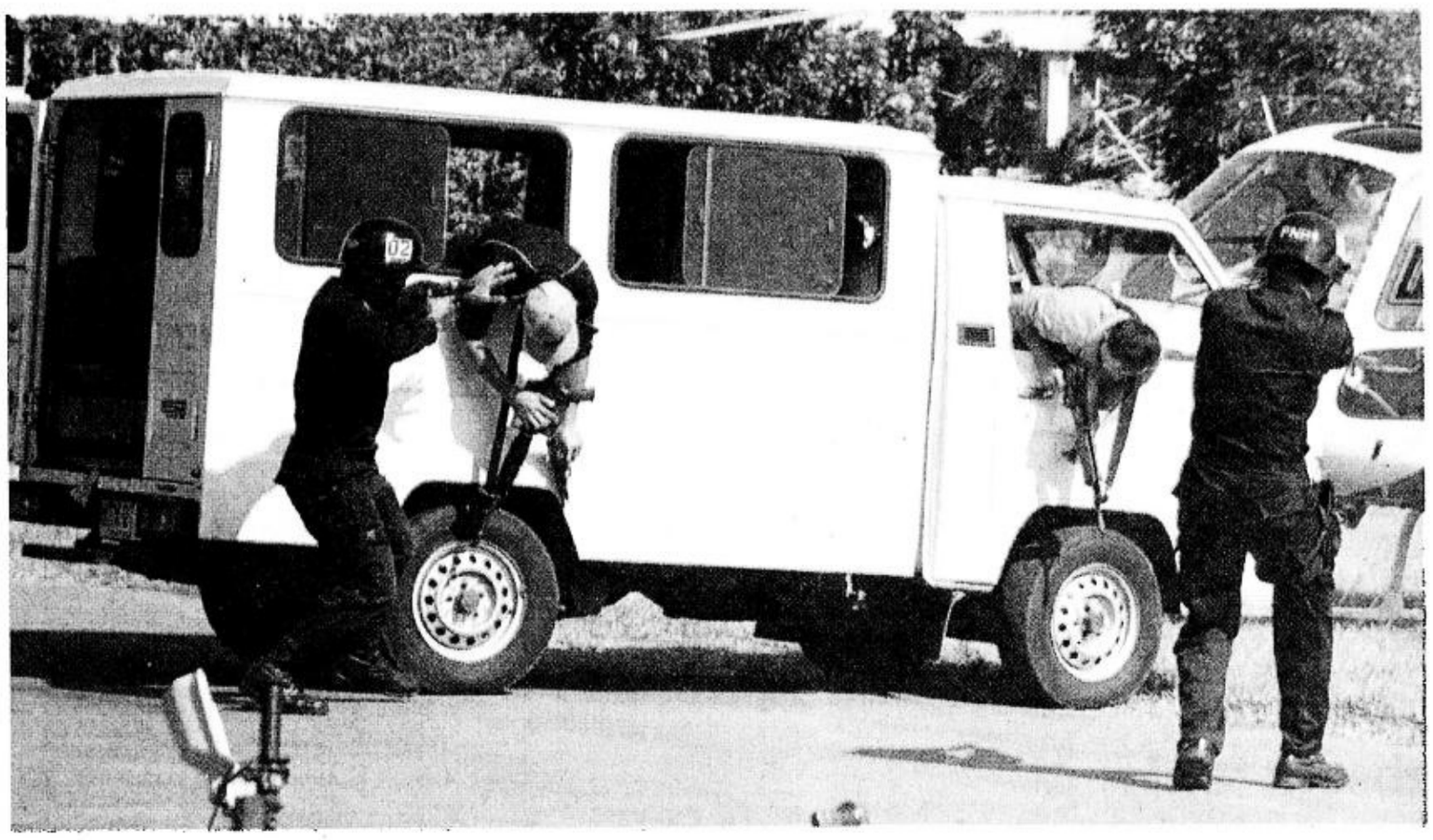
■ 'General's kin ' harasses traffic man, reporters A20
■ On Target: Mike Velarde's demagoguery A20

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



RESCUED BY GRADS
Two members of the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR (Kidnapping for Ransom) Task Force shoot down two kidnappers, but only for show, during the graduation of 21 Naktaf agents from a motorcycle course. The Naktaf chief, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., called the graduates the agency's "secret weapons." He claimed "6 out of 10 cases of kidnapping for ransom have been solved" and vowed to "do even better this year."
JOAN BONDOC

'You don't know who you're messing with'

Text messages from Maganto godson

BY ALCUIN PAPA

"PAY for the damage to my car or I'll have you picked up! Just remember I didn't do anything to you. You started this so finish the problem. You don't know who you're messing with."

This was one of the threatening text messages in Filipino that Carlo Balao, 25, said he received from Ariel Maganto, 14, who claimed to be a son of Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto and a relative of former President Ramos, following a traffic altercation last week in Makati.

"We won't take this sitting down," was the reply yesterday of Elizabeth Salud, mother-in-law of Balao and owner of the blue Ford-150 pickup truck that Maganto allegedly shot at after Balao parked it in front of Capone's Bar on Makati Avenue on Thursday.

"If there was really a misunderstanding, why did someone have to shoot at my car?" Salud said in a phone interview. "They act as if they are still in power."

But Chief Supt. Maganto on Thursday had denied that Ariel was his son, saying the 14-year-old is his godson Ariel Galang. He said Ariel had filed a complaint against Balao whom he accused of hitting his car, a Toyota Corolla, in front of Where Else? disco at Hotel Intercontinental on Ayala Avenue in Makati.

Maganto said police summoned Balao to explain his side but the latter did not show up.

Maganto had described Ariel as "kind and responsible" and speculated that the misunderstanding between him and Balao could have been due to jealousy over their female companions, one of whom, Maganto said, Balao was interested in.

Salud said they would pursue charges of grave threats and damage to property against Galang. She also challenged Maganto to bring out his godson to clear the matter.

Maganto told the INQUIRER he was sure Ariel did not have a gun during the altercation with Balao.

"This is just a misunderstanding among young people," Maganto said in Filipino. "But definitely, he (Ariel) didn't have a gun. Maybe it belonged to his friends. In any case, I gave the kid a lecture."

MAGANTO

Balao said he was driving Salud's pickup when, in front of Where Else? disco at about 4 a.m. on Thursday, he crossed paths with Ariel, who was driving his Toyota Corolla.

Balao described Ariel's driving as aggressive. He said that as he was about to park the pickup in front of the disco, Ariel confronted him, saying that he had hit the latter's Corolla.

Balao said he argued that he did not hit Ariel's car. He said their exchange became heated but he backed off after he noticed that about 20 companions of Ariel were closing in on him.

He said he left and went to Capone's Bar on Makati Avenue and parked the pickup in front of it.

Balao said he started receiving threatening text messages allegedly coming from Ariel.

"Let's see each other again, lowlife loser," went one message, according to Balao. "I hold the country so be careful where you go."

Balao said another warned, "*Tara, ubusan ng lahi* (let's finish off each other). Remember my name ARIEL MAGANTO! Come back and let's see if you can kill!"

After a few minutes inside Capone's Bar, a burst of gunfire was heard outside, Balao said. He said he then went outside and found six bullet holes on Salud's pickup.

Witnesses said the men who shot the pickup were on board a Honda Civic. Balao said he filed a complaint with the Makati City Police station 9.

"Even after the shooting, I still received threatening text messages (on my cell phone)," Balao said. "We were told even by Makati police that this was a son of General Maganto."

General Maganto had just been designated consultant to newly installed Land Transportation Office chief Roberto Lastimoso. Before that, Maganto was on floating status at the Philippine National Police.

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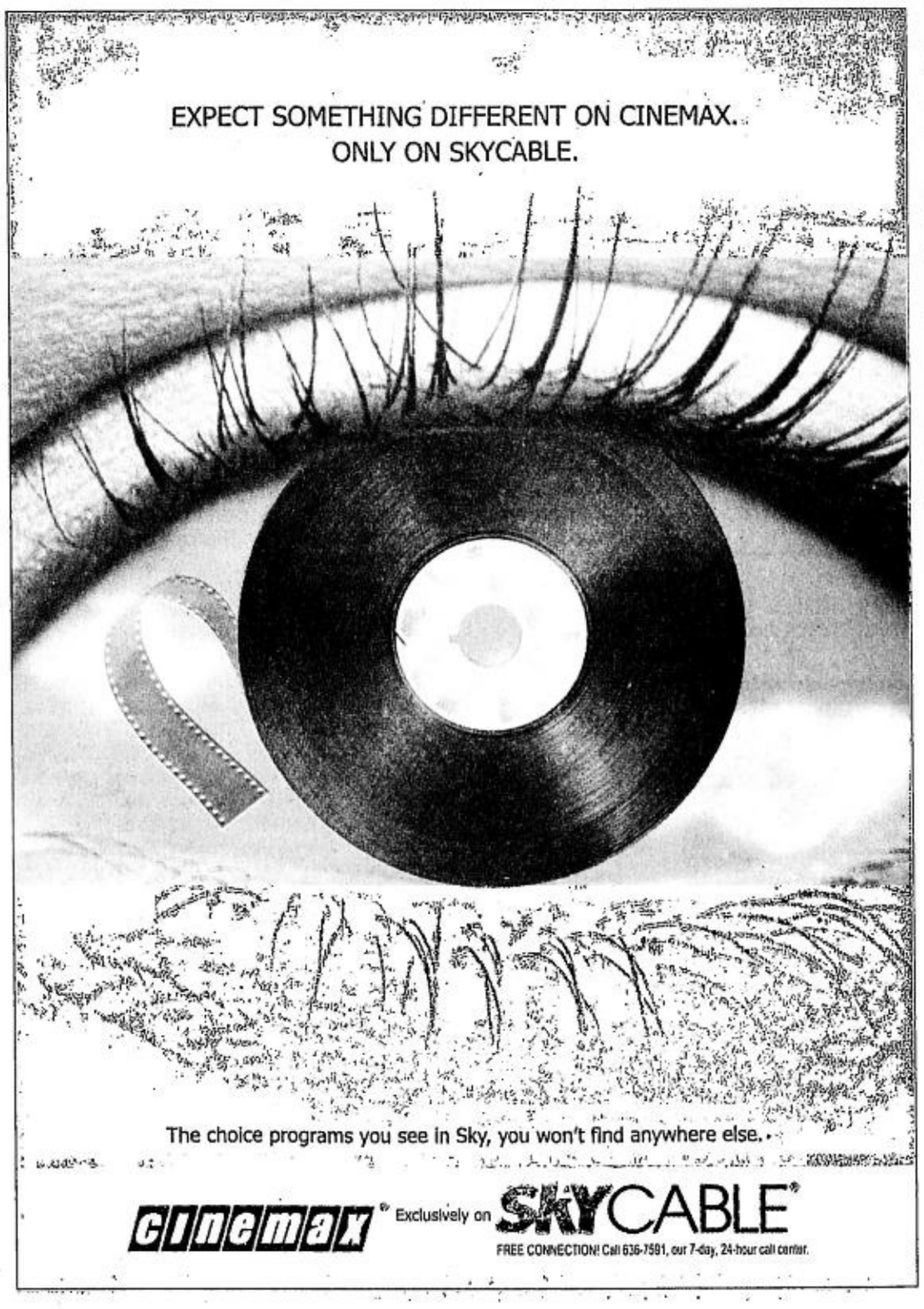

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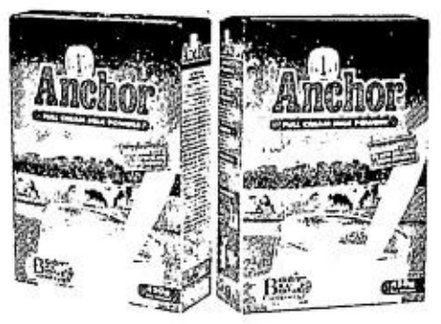

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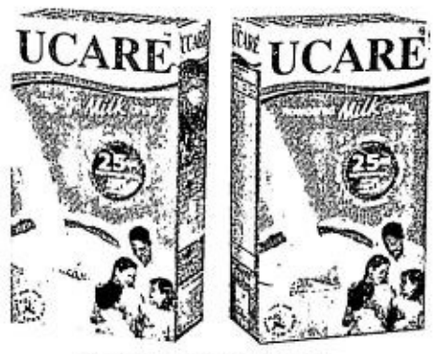

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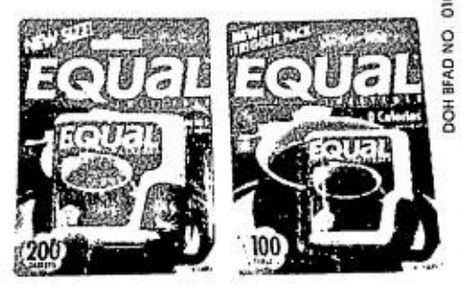

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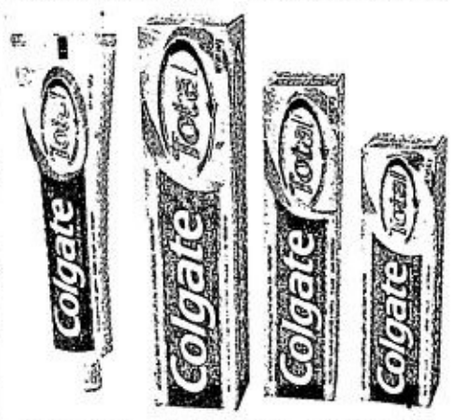

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'Alembong' Lita Gutierrez is dead

FORMER movie star Lita Gutierrez finally lost her fight against colon cancer.

Her death yesterday in the United States followed the murder of her friend, Nida Blanca, last November.

Gutierrez was popularly known as "Alembong," from one of the characters she played in her movies. Like Blanca, she was a contract star of LVN Pictures.

GUTIERREZ

She will be buried at the Harbor Lawn in Costa Mesa, California, according to her relatives.
Leah Salterio

Atienza willing to dialogue with Alvarez

BY JEROME ANING

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday said he was willing to meet Environment and National Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez face to face any time and to dialogue with him to solve the Mehan Gardens controversy.

But Atienza refused to meet and talk with Alvarez's wife, Cecille Guidote-Alvarez, head of the Earth Savers Movement, one of the various environment and conservation groups fighting to preserve the Mehan Gardens in Manila.

"I am very willing to discuss this, I can meet him (Alvarez) face to face anytime but not his wife," Atienza told reporters during his weekly media forum at City Hall.

Last November, the City Council declared the DENR chief persona non grata for his alleged meddling in city projects, such as the building of the new City Colleges of Manila campus and the Park N Ride facility on the Mehan.

Alvarez has stopped the two projects, citing the historical and cultural significance of the park.

Some 1,000 CCM students and faculty members yesterday morning staged a brief rally at the Mehan, demanding the city government to speed up the construction of their new campus on the park.

Led by Hiro Masuda, president of the CCM Supreme Student Government, the students said they had patiently waited for almost a year as those opposed to the CCM project looked for an alternative site for the campus, but came up empty-handed.

"At that time, we shared the excitement of the city government at the prospect of getting an equally suitable site because we felt it would add to the prestige of our school," he said. "It seemed, however, that we were given false hopes."

Masuda was referring to the recent scuttling of a plan to transfer the new campus to the site of the old Ateneo Municipal in Intramuros. The property is the subject of a binding contract with a private firm for the construction of a hotel, according to the Intramuros Administration.

Atienza said this was why the campus would be built on Mehan as originally planned.

Conservationists vehemently opposed the project, saying it would destroy the cultural and historical heritage of the 140-year-old Mehan. They also cited laws prohibiting anyone from touching a site declared historical by the National Historical Institute.

But the city government maintains that the Mehan is not historical and that the construction would in fact "enhance" the park.

In a manifesto, the CCM students said: "Give us Mehan and we will show you how to truly care for it. Let it be our new home, the new birthplace for our dreams and aspirations."

The students complained that their current campus on Escolta Street in Sta. Cruz is all ready deteriorating and is no longer conducive to studying.

On Thursday, the Mehan controversy again heated up as the city's legal officer, Melchor Monsod, called on DENR's Alvarez to "pay attention to developments so you would know what you are talking about."

Monsod reacted to Alvarez's surprise on Wednesday that the construction of the new CCM campus would proceed on the Mehan.

Alvarez said he was bewildered by what he branded as the City Hall's fickleness about the search for alternative sites. He said that a few months ago, he formed a technical working team composed of DENR officials and conservationists to look for possible alternative sites for the CCM, one of which was the old Ateneo site.

Monsod said he was wondering why Alvarez did not know that Atienza had quashed the scheme, which had been given wide media coverage.

"Where has he been these past few months?" Monsod said. "Secretary Alvarez apparently has not kept himself abreast of the latest developments regarding this matter."

He said the city government is disappointed because no individual or group is negotiating for alternative sites.

"Our waiting seems to have been for naught because those who promised to get the Intramuros property failed to deliver on their commitment," Monsod said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, January 12, 2002
Week After Epiphany

1st Reading: *1 Jn 5:14-21*
Gospel: *Jn 3:22-30*

Jesus went into the territory of Judea with his disciples. He stayed there with them and baptized. John was also baptizing in Aenon near Salim where water was plentiful; people came to him and were baptized. This happened before John was put in prison.

Now John's disciples had been questioned by a Jew about spiritual cleansing, so they came to him and said, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, and about whom you spoke favorably, is now baptizing and all are going to him."

John answered, "No one can take on anything except what has been given him from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said: 'I am not the Christ but I have been sent before him.' Only the bridegroom has the bride; but the friend of the bridegroom stands by and listens, and rejoices to hear the bridegroom's voice. My joy is now full. It is necessary that he increase but that I decrease."

Commentary

John is still baptizing, when his disciples come with the news that Jesus is now baptizing and "everyone is going to him." This seems to be a watershed moment for John. He realizes that his time is past: he has done what God called him to do, and now it is finished. Now the bridegroom is here, and the bride – the people – has found him. Now John's star is setting and the star of Jesus is rising. What does John feel? Sadness? Nostalgia? On the contrary. Joy! His mission is accomplished. The mission of Jesus is about to begin. He has prepared the way for Jesus and now Jesus is here. John has pointed us to Jesus, and, if we will, we can go with him. The kingdom of heaven is close at hand and the time for a new heart and a new spirit is now.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

ERCANTILE LAW (SECRECY OF BANK DEPOSITS)—Bank deposits absolutely confidential; exceptions—An examination of the secrecy of bank deposits law (R.A. No. 1405) would reveal the following exceptions: 1. Where the depositor consents in writing; 2. Impeachment case; 3. By court order in bribery or dereliction of duty cases against public officials; 4. Deposit is subject of litigation; 5. Sec. 8, R.A. No. 3019 in cases of unexplained wealth as held in the case of PNB v. Gancayco 122 Phil. 503, 508 (1965). The order of the Ombudsman to produce for *in camera* inspection the subject accounts with the Union Bank of the Philippines is based on a pending investigation at the Office of the Ombudsman. We rule that before an *in camera* inspection may be allowed, there must be a pending case before a court of competent jurisdiction. Further, the account must be clearly identified, the inspection limited to the subject matter of the pending case before the court of competent jurisdiction. The bank personnel and the account holder must be notified to be present during the inspection, and such inspection may cover only the account identified in the pending case. "Section 2 of the Law on the Secrecy of Bank Deposits, as amended, declares bank deposits to be absolutely confidential except: (1) In an examination made in the course of a special or general examination of a bank that is specifically authorized by the Monetary Board after being satisfied that there is reasonable ground to believe that a bank fraud or serious irregularity has been or is being committed and that it is necessary to look into the deposit to establish such fraud or irregularity, (2) In an examination made by an independent auditor hired by the bank to conduct its regular audit provided that the examination is for audit purposes only and the results thereof shall be for the exclusive use of the bank, (3) Upon written permission of the depositor, (4) In cases of impeachment, (5) Upon order of a competent court in cases of bribery or dereliction of duty of public officials, or (6) In cases where the money deposited or invested in the subject matter of the litigation. In the case at bar, there is yet no pending litigation before any court of competent authority. What is existing is an investigation by the office of the Ombudsman. In short, what the Office of the Ombudsman would wish to do is to fish for additional evidence to formally charge the depositor with the *Sandiganbayan*. Clearly, there was no pending case in court, which would warrant the opening of the bank account for inspection. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, En Banc, Marquez v. Desierto, G.R. No. 135882, June 27, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Councilor absent 'only 8 times'

SHE WAS absent only 8 times, not 21 times.

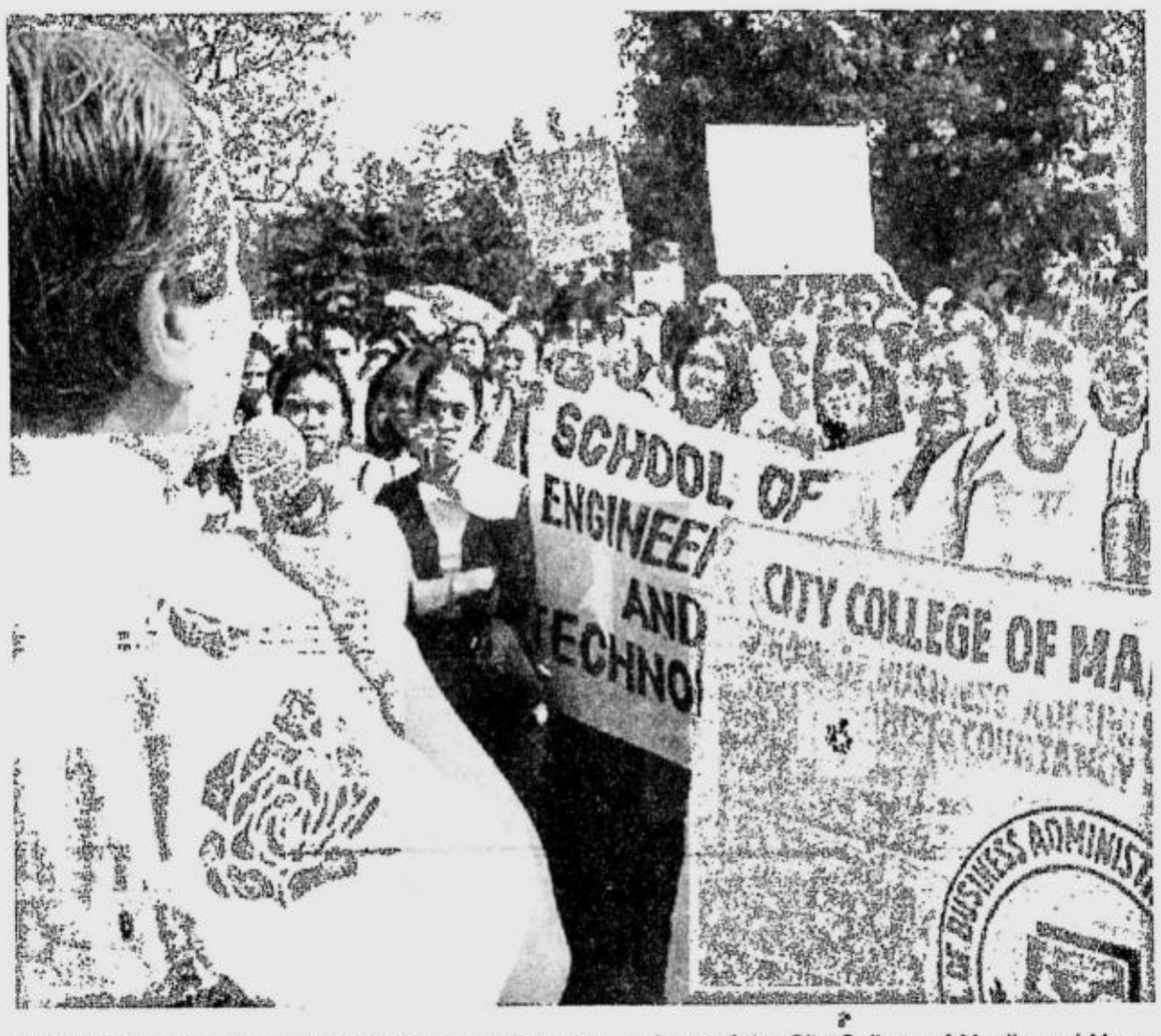
Councilor Nellissa Beltran of Manila's second district also explained that these absences were because of "ongoing and continuing projects" in her district, and half of the absences were due to illness.

The Inquirer had erroneously identified Beltran in its Jan. 2 issue as the city councilor who had the second highest number of absences from July to December 2001.

A copy of the city council's attendance record, which the councilor provided, showed Beltran was ranked fifth among the city's 38 councilors who had the least number of absences. But she tied with four other lawmakers.

The top absentees were Beltran's brother Natalio Beltran III and Percival Floirendo, who had both been absent 23 times. Natalio and Floirendo are the sectoral councilors representing the barangay league and the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, respectively.

Councilors Isko Moreno of the first district and Robert Ortega Jr. of the fifth followed with 21 and 16 absences, respectively. *Jerome Aning*



DIALOGUE on the Mehan issue takes place between students of the City College of Manila and Mayor Atienza (left). JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'General's kin' harasses traffic man, reporters

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A DRUNKEN man who identified himself as a captain of the Armed Forces and a nephew of a general figured in a traffic accident in Makati City on Wednesday and became abusive, cursing at traffic enforcers and media people.

The man was identified as Edric Gidaya, 45, married, of Soldiers Hills Subdivision in Muntinlupa City.

Gidaya was on board a Toyota Land Cruiser (UHA-818) when the vehicle was involved in a traffic accident with an Isuzu passenger jeepney (NXP-587) driven by Rogelio Bobier of Makati City at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the corner of the South Superhighway and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati.

Makati traffic enforcer Francisco Roxas alleged that during investigation at the accident site, Gidaya verbally harassed him.

Gidaya allegedly identified himself as a nephew of a certain "Gen. Gidaya." He also said he was working for Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional affairs in Southern Mindanao.

Roxas and a companion approached members of the Makati City tri-media press corps and complained about the abuse.

When the press corps members went to the office of the Makati police traffic unit, they were also verbally harassed and cursed by Gidaya, they said.

Traffic investigator SPO1 Wlliam Binalla said Gidaya ran after the reporters, who were able to run out of the office. Gidaya then kicked the glass door of the traffic unit office, shattering it to pieces, Binalla added.

Gidaya was not injured, he said.

Charges of malicious mischief and grave threats have been prepared against Gidaya, who was detained at the Makati City police station. Police told reporters Gidaya was not a member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Mike Velarde's demagoguery

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

A FRONT-PAGE story in yesterday's issue of the Inquirer said that crowds at El Shaddai prayer rallies are thinning out because its founder, Mike Velarde, is playing politics.

Mabuti naman at natatauhan na sila. They've finally awakened to the reality that their leader is a demagogue.

Mike Velarde, as well as other religious leaders who inflict their political beliefs on their followers, will eventually lose his flock.

***

When Velarde asked his followers to vote for Joseph "Erap" Estrada for President, he was not spreading God's word. He was espousing the politics of Erap, who is very much a man of the world. Erap's idea of worship is kneeling before a naked woman.

Taking advantage of the gullibility and ignorance of his followers, Velarde made them vote for a man who would have led the nation to damnation were he not ousted in a "people power" revolt in January, last year.

Now, Velarde is back to his old trick. He would want Erap reinstalled as President through his own brand of "people power."

His flock should have seen through his machinations. But most of them are very simple-minded.

***

Look, guys, I have nothing personal against Velarde. Neither do I question his religious teachings. I have never despised anybody else's faith that is contrary to mine. I believe that religion is one's personal relationship with the Almighty— be it Jesus Christ, Yahweh or Allah.

But I do question the motive of any religious leader who would force his political beliefs on his flock. Politics and religion don't mix.

***

Since the middle of December last year leaders of some leftist organizations and so-called civil society groups, politicians, and at least one top police official were said to have been meeting to discuss massive rallies starting on Jan. 21, the first anniversary of Erap's ouster.

The mass actions will culminate on Feb. 25, the 15th anniversary of Edsa 1.

***

The meetings discussed the venues of big gatherings— at the Bonifacio Circle (formerly Plaza Lawton; at Mendiola and the vicinity of Malacañang; in front of the Sandiganbayan, site of Erap's trial; at the vicinity of the Veterans Memorial Hospital, where Erap and his son Jinggoy are detained; at the Edsa Shrine; and at the Quirino Grandstand.

El Shaddai and the politically influential Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) will provide the "warm bodies" in those gatherings, according to my deep penetration agent (DPA).

***

It will be "Edsa III" all over again. On May 1, 2001, a big crowd composed of INC members gathered at the Edsa Shrine to protest the incarceration of Erap, deposed by "people power" crowd at the same place four months before. The crowd became a mob that marched on Malacañang and attacked the seat of power.

During the meeting, according to my DPA, the possibility of having some hardened criminals and members of the Moro National Liberation Front and Abu Sayyaf mingle with the crowd was discussed. It was not known whether the proposal was adopted.

***

By the way, some of those meetings were attended by Linda Montayre, self-styled secretary-general of the Philippine Consultative Assembly (PCA).

No wonder she threatened to call for another people power uprising against the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

Montayre is apparently banking on the members of El Shaddai and INC to provide the big mass of protesters for the planned "People Power 4.

***

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, spokesperson of the meddlesome Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), disowned Montayre and "her group," saying they did not represent the Church.

The PCA, Coronel said, does "not represent the mainstream position of the Catholic Church."

What about Velarde's El Shaddai, Monsignor?

***

Truth to tell, the Catholic Church does not disown Velarde no matter how outrageous some of his dogma; for example, the opening up of umbrellas by the faithful during prayer rallies so they would receive manna from heaven.

Why? Because Velarde might break away from the Catholic Church and form his own church, that's why. Velarde boasts of 10 million followers. His boast is not supported by a head count.

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Happy End is the debut work of director Jung Ji-woo, who won acclaim with an earlier short film titled A Bit Bitter (literal translation: "Ginger"). This new work focuses on three characters: a banker who loses his job but finds a sense of fulfillment in his new life at home, taking care of his daughter and reading mysteries in the park; his wife, a successful career woman who manages a language institute; and her ex-boyfriend, with whom she became separated years earlier when he was drafted into the army.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Recycling puts ink firm in the black

BY JOEY C. PAPA
Contributor

RECYCLING is transforming something old and discarded into something useful and valuable.

That is the reason for being of Printing Images CtC Inc., a company that buys empty inkjet cartridges and turns these into remanufactured inkjet cartridges that find their way to satisfied customers all over the world.

"This kind of recycling is most welcome," said Dr. Judea Millora of Zero Kalat para sa Kaunlaran (ZKK) Foundation, a non-government organization promoting recycling, on the weekly radio program "Bangon Kalikasan" during a discussion of the ZKK Foundation's achievements.

ZKK was cited the best NGO in recycling in the First Asian Waste Management Excellence Awards held in Kuala Lumpur on Nov. 7, 2001.

An empty inkjet cartridge weighs about 45 to 50 grams. In the Philippines alone, Printing Images buys from local collectors an average of 50,000 empty inkjet cartridges per month. Last year alone, the company collected 600,000 empty cartridges.

Printing Images president Norbert Grimm says there are many other empty inkjet recycling companies in other parts of the world, although his company is the only one he knows of in the Philippines that is into this activity.

It is a good example of how recycling can encourage entrepreneurship, which Luz Sabas of the Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines has long been promoting.

The secret

"Recycling empty inkjet cartridges is a labor-intensive process, the product of long and dedicated research and lots of trial and error," says Grimm. "That is the open secret behind the success of Printing Images."

Grimm is an industrial engineer. His Filipino wife, Susan Panahon, is a chemist who formulates the inks produced by Printing Images. Grimm calls their tandem a perfect partnership.

Grimm and Panahon had been long-time residents of the United States where they met. A couple, they first set up an office in New Jersey. They continue to have an office there, in Brunswick.

In 1995, they came to the Philippines. They now have a business office in Makati and have also expanded their operations to the Subic Freeport Zone. Today, their products go all over the world: 30 percent to customers in the US, 30 percent to Europe, and 40 percent to Asia, Australia, New Zealand and other countries. Grimm clarifies that their product is different from the refill kits sold in computer shops.

The process

The recycling or re-manufacturing processes starts in the laboratory, according to Grimm. In the lab, ink formulations are developed and tested by chemical engineers and chemists.

In the filling machines room, several thousands of different types of cartridges are fed daily with different formulations of ink. Since the cartridges that are collected are not completely empty, there is a cleaning room to make sure each cartridge is free of impurities, to ensure quality.

In the packing room, each cartridge is readied for wrapping in foil, is sealed and is kept in a trademark box. In the plotters room, machines test inks on white paper.

Ink is processed in the ink production room. The ink is sold in gallons to companies abroad that are also into this kind of recycling. Some 12 to 15 raw materials go into the formulation of an ink mixture. Every type of ink requires a different formulation.

The black ink testing room is separate from the colored ink testing room.

The last step is the removal of the old labels which are replaced with the label for the re-manufactured products.

The company also manufactures food-grade materials approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs and by the US Food and Drug Administration. Food-grade materials are used for printing on rice papers, cake decorations and other food-coloring purposes.

The workers

The couple's belief in the need for people to work together in keeping the environment healthy has a lot to do with their having sustained the business. It can be said that theirs is an environment-friendly management style.

Through the years, the company has increasingly sourced its raw materials from local dealers.

The company's about 90 employees work in fully air-conditioned rooms. They have snacks at 9 a.m. and at 2:30 p.m. lunch—all for free.

The workplace has clean containers marked "recyclables" for the items that other companies would otherwise discard.

RECYCLING/ A22

3 Japanese traders lose P3M to 6

THREE Japanese businessmen yesterday lost about P3 million in cash and valuables to six armed men in Pasay City, police said.

Masaru Fukita, 58, Chikaharu Kaino, 47, and Ichiro Katayama, 49, had just arrived from Japan when the armed men robbed them on Edsa Extension around 2 p.m., police said.

Minutes after the businessmen left the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the driver of their gray Honda Civic car noticed a black Mitsubishi Gallant (PDS-894) tailing them.

When the Honda Civic reached the area fronting the Heritage Hotel, the Gallant blocked its path and at gunpoint took the cash and belongings of the Japanese travelers, investigation showed.

The robbers were armed with shotguns and .45 caliber pistols, police said.

The Japanese said they lost two traveler's checks for P2.4 million, US$3,000 cash, plane tickets, cellular phones, and other valuables.

The robbers escaped after a brief car chase with policemen on the South Luzon Expressway.

Christian V. Esguerra

Rodriguez fire kills 2 kids

TWO sleeping little children were burned to death when fire razed their shanty in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal on Wednesday afternoon, according to a belated police report.

Police identified the victims as 3-year-old Michael Gongon and his younger sibling Olgan, of Sitio Lukutang Malaki, Barangay San Isidro. Their charred remains were found in the still smoldering ruins of their shanty.

Investigators said the fire broke out shortly after noon while the children's mother, Aileen Gongon, was washing clothes in a nearby river.

PO1 Alejandro Perez, the Rodriguez municipal police station investigator, said a candle or a kerosene lamp that was left unattended could have caused the fire.

Sitio Lukutang Malaki is a very remote area that has no power supply, according to him.

He said the children were apparently sleeping when the fire broke out.

Nelson F. Flores

Sigma Rhoan Isidro, 65

DENNIS Stevenson Isidro, the first Grand Archon of the Sigma Rho fraternity of UP Los Baños, died of a lingering illness on Jan. 10. He was 65.

Isidro served as the fraternity's very first Grand Archon when it was organized in 1957. After college, he served as VP for the institutional banking group (public sector) of Citibank until 1986 and he became chair of the board of Tulay sa Pag-unlad Inc., a microfinance institution which helps entrepreneurs all over the country.

He was also an active supporter of the fund-raising campaign for the construction of Tahanang Rhosig, a proposed three-story structure meant to serve as the Sigma Rho's general headquarters.

Isidro's cremated remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Church along J. Rodriguez Street in New Manila, Quezon City and will be interred today, Saturday. Isidro is survived by wife Belen and son Chuck.

Stay away from Parañaque, litter bugs

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

IF YOU have the habit of throwing your trash anywhere, stay away from Parañaque City. The city government has deputized about 400 residents to go after people who recklessly throw garbage in the city.

Under the program called "Bantay Basura," Mayor Joey Marquez authorized the field workers to apprehend those who would violate the city's garbage ordinance.

"We hope that this will once and for all instill discipline among the residents," the mayor said yesterday.

He said the field workers would watch for people who would throw candy wrappers, cigarette butts, and other trash from vehicles and elsewhere.

Residents who will dispose of their garbage before or after the 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily collection period will also be apprehended, according to the mayor.

Violators will be issued "penalty tickets" similar to those given to traffic offenders, he said.

Within three days upon receipt of a penalty ticket, an offender will receive a subpoena from the city prosecutor's office.

The violator will be required to pay a corresponding fine or will be jailed.

First-time offenders will pay P500, while those who violate the new garbage rule for the second time will have to pay P1,000 and for the third time P2,000.

To avoid incidents of corruption, field workers will get 25 percent of the total amount of the fines, according to Marquez.

The rest of the amount would go to the city government's clean and green trust fund, he said.

More than a week into the new garbage program, the local government has apprehended about 300 violators, according to local officials. They were fined P150,000.

Makati City Hall open during weekends

THE MAKATI City Hall will be open during the weekends up to Jan. 20 to accommodate more applications for renewal of and new business permits and licenses, Mayor Jejomar Binay announced yesterday.

Binay also said the deadline for filing business permits and licenses has been extended to Jan. 21.

He said the extension offices of barangays and private insurance companies at City Hall would be open today and on Jan. 13, 19, and 20 starting 8 a.m. and would close only after the last client has been served.

The mayor urged business owners and operators to submit their applications on or before Jan. 20 to avoid paying a penalty equivalent to 27 percent of the total amount due for the renewal of or new permits.

Q: How does The Inquirer protect small fry?

A: We keep an eye on the big fish.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

Recycling...(From page A21)

The Grimms have come a long way from the time their company started with only two workers, Norbert and Susan themselves. Even today, as long as he is around, Grimm personally opens and closes the gates and the doors in his shop, seeing to it that everybody and everything is safe and in order.

How does this kind of business fare against the printer giants?

"Well, there's always a place for the small ones," Grimm grins. "Especially when the business is founded on a growing army of small collectors who sell their find to us. As they earn, they also help save the environment."

(The author may be reached at bangon_kalikasan@skyinet.net)

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2 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 SPY GAMES THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 GIRL FEVER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 BAGONG BUWAN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	Art Film	4 WEEKEND WITH POPS Onstage	4 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 ON THE LINE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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3 (DTS)	YAMASHITA
4 (DDS) (DTS)	GIRL FEVER
5 (DDS) (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
6 (DDS) (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 (DDS) (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	BAGONG BUWAN
9	YAMASHITA
10	PEKSMAN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1	PEKSMAN
2	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
3 (DTS)	BRO
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	PEKSMAN
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	SPY GAMES
2	PEKSMAN
3	GIRLS FEVER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG

METROPOLIS star
543.3927 loc. 150

1	PEKSMAN
2	HUBOG
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
6	SPY GAMES
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	SPY GAMES

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2	BAHAY NI LOLA

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	BRO
2	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
3	PEKSMAN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
A	BRO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PEKSMAN
2	BRO
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	HUBOG
5	PEKSMAN
6	ON THE LINE
7 (DTS)	SPY GAMES
8 (SDDS)	GLASS HOUSE
9 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	KAMIT AY TAO LAMANG

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	YAMASHITA
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	HUBOG
4 (SDDS)	SPY GAMES
5	PEKSMAN
6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 (DTS)	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
8	BAHAY NI LOLA
9	LORDS OFTHE RINGs

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SPY GAMES
2	HUBOG
3	PEKSMAN
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
7 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	GIRL FEVER

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	SPY GAMES
2	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
3 (DTS)	HUBOG
4	PEKSMAN
5 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SPY GAMES

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PEKSMAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG RESERVE HUBOG

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PEKSMAN
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	YAMASHITA

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	PEKSMAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
4	PEKSMAN
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	BRO
3	PEKSMAN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	PEKSMAN

CitiMall
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1	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	BRO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	HUBOG
2	PEKSMAN
3 (DTS)	SPY GAMES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 (DTS)	PEKSMAN
3 (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
4	HUBOG

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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2 (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
3 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	HUBOG

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HUBOG
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
(Tarlac)

1	HUBOG
2	BRO
3 (DOLBY)	MUSKETEERS
4 (DTS)	SUMMER CATCH

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RING
2	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
3	PEKSMAN
4 (DTS)	SPY GAME

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
2	PEKSMAN
3 (DTS)	HUBOG
4	RATANG LANSANGAN
5	YAMASHITA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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1	PEKSMAN
2	HUBO
3	SPY GAME

Olivarez Los Baños
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1	PEKSMAN
2	HUBOG
3	SPY GAMES

Olivarez Tanaytay
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1	BRO
2	HUBOG
3	SUSMARYOSEP

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BATANG LANSANGAN
2	PEKSMAN
3	MUSKETEERS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4008

1 (DTS)	HUBOG
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HUBOG
2	YAMASHITA
3	BATANG LANSANGAN

Fiesta World Mall
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1	THE SCORE
2	KING OF GLADIATOR
3	YAMASHITA
4	BAGONG BUWAN

Jade Cinema
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2	HUBO
3	ROCKSTAR
4 (DTS EX)	YAMASHITA

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3	LORD OF THE RING
4	GIRLS FEVER
5	SPY GAMES
6	ON THE LINE
7	GLASS HOUSE
8	BAGONG BUWAN
9	YAMASHITA
10	PEKSMAN

ERMITA 525-7809 TO 12

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	GIRLS FEVER
3	GLASS HOUSE
4	ON THE LINE
5	PEKSMAN
6	LORD OF THE RING
7	SPY GAMES

METRO EAST 632-9115-16 / 633-7041

1	GIRLS FEVER
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	HUBOG
5	SPY GAMES
6	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
7	PEKSMAN
8	BAGONG BUWAN

NOVALICHES 930-3220 to 31

1	ON THE LINE
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	GIRLS FEVER
5	SPY GAMES
6	PEKSMAN
7	YAMASHITA
8	BAGONG BUWAN

IMUS (046) 471-0168

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
3	GIRLS FEVER
4	SPY GAMES
5	PEKSMAN
6	BAGONG BUWAN

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5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	YAMASHITA

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPY GAME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	GIRL FEVER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	ON THE LINE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ROSARIO-18/TEMPRESS AFFAIR
ODEON	WALANG IWANAN
ODEON-2	LORD OF THE RING
ROBEN	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
IMES	KNIGHT'S TAIL / THE BODY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
REMAR	WALANG IWANAN
REMAR-2	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
NOVA MALL NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAGONG BUWAN
B	WALANG IWANAN
C	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
CINEMA-3	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GIRL FEVER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	TATARIN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SPY GAME
CINEMA-12	ON THE LINE
CINEMA-14	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-15	LORD OF THE RINGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-3	SPY GAME
CINEMA-4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-5	SPY GAME
CINEMA-6	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
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3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN
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6	PEKSMAN
7	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
8	GIRL FEVER

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1	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	WALANG IWANAN
4	YAMASHITA
5	GIRL FEVER
6	SPY GAMES
7	BAGONG BUWAN
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	BAHAY NI LOLA
10	ON THE LINE
11	HUBOG
12	GLASS HOUSE

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2	WALANG IWANAN
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5	LORD OF THE RINGS
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7	BAGONG BUWAN
8	ON THE LINE
9	YAMASHITA
10	HUBOG

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1	GIRLS FEVER
2	ON THE LINE
3	SPY GAMES
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	YAMASHITA
6	HUBOG
7	BAGONG BUWAN
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	BAHAY NI LOLA
10	WALANG IWANAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	GIRL FEVER
2	HUBOG
3	YAMASHITA
4	LORD OF THE RING
5	BAHAY NI LOLA
6	WALANG IWANAN
7	SPY GAMES
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
11	ON THE LINE
12	TATARIN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820905

1	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	WALANG IWANAN

SM CEBU 2313876

1	ON THE LINE
2	SPY GAMES
3	WOLF GIRL
4	DI KITA MA-REACH
5	BAHAY NI LOLA
6	PISNGI NG LANGIT
7	YAMASHITA

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	YAMASHITA
4	ON THE LINE
5	GLASS HOUSE
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	GIRL FEVER
8	TATARIN
9	LORD OF THE RINGS
10	HUBOG
11	PEKSMAN
12	BAGONG BUWAN

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	HUBOG
2	CLOSED
3	MASKETTEER
4	BAHAY NI LOLA
5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	4 FATHERS
7	CLOSED
8	MVP

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1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	ON THE LINE
3	SPY GAMES
4	LORD OF THE RING
5	GIRL FEVER
6	GLASS HOUSE
7	YAMASHITA
8	HUBOG
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	PEKSMAN
12	TATARIN

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

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2	ROCKSTAR
3	YAMASHITA
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	ON THE LINE
6	HUBOG

SM SUCAT 8294975

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2	SPY GAMES
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	WALANG IWANAN
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	SPY GAMES

SM DAVAO

1	YAMASHITA
2	4 FATHERS
3	ON THE LINE
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	WOLF GIRLS
6	SPY GAMES

dts DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Water comes to Payatas

WATER, once a scarce commodity in Lupang Pangako (literally, Promised Land), now flows from individual taps in the community following the inauguration of Bayan Tubig, a socialized water delivery system for the poor.

Residents of Lupang Pangako thought they had no hope for a better quality of life until Maynilad Water Services Inc. introduced the Bayan Tubig program to their community. Before individual water connections were installed, the place had no regular source of safe water and its wells were unsafe for drinking.

Worse, the lack of water caused fighting among neighbors, even the breakup of some couples due to unsanitary conditions.

Editha Abarientos, an occasional laundrywoman, said that before Bayan Tubig, her family of 10 spent P300 to P900 for 1.2 cubic meters of water for sale, the equivalent of 1,200 liters.

Under the socialized Bayan Tubig scheme, she will pay only P40 a month for 10 cubic meters of potable water, enabling her to save for food and other expenses.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently pointed out to the residents the advantages of having a system of private and free enterprise. She noted that it was only after Maynilad took over the West Zone concession area that water delivery services improved.

"Before, instead of spending your day working or finding alternatives to increase your income, you were so busy fetching water," she said. "Now, you will have more time to be productive."

More than 580,620 individuals have benefited from Bayan Tubig since it was launched in February 1999. Its beneficiaries represent 49 percent of the 136,672 new water connections that Maynilad has installed since August 1997 when it took over the West Zone concession area.

For a community to qualify for the Bayan Tubig program, its residents must belong to the low-income group and must not have individual water connections. Their area must not have sufficient basic services and must be near an existing mainline.

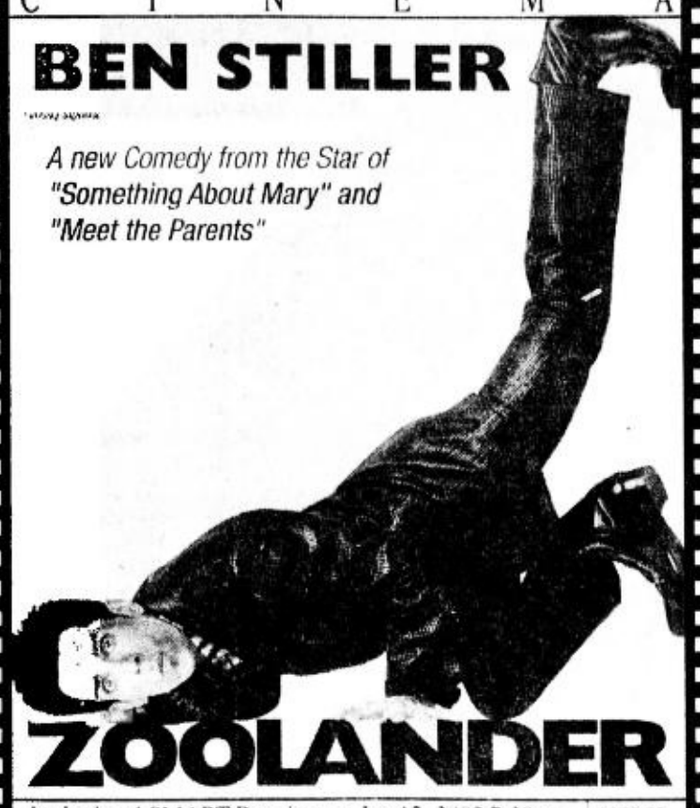
The community also must not be scheduled for demolition, as attested to by the local government.

More than half a million individuals from communities in Sampaloc and Tondo in Manila; Novaliches and Roosevelt in Quezon City; Caloocan City; Malabon, Navotas; Valenzuela City, Las Piñas, Parañaque City and Payatas now enjoy safe water at affordable rates.

SM ADVANCE SCREENING CINEMA

BEN STILLER

A new Comedy from the Star of "Something About Mary" and "Meet the Parents"



ZOOLANDER

Invitational SMART Premiere on Jan 12, 2002 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 3

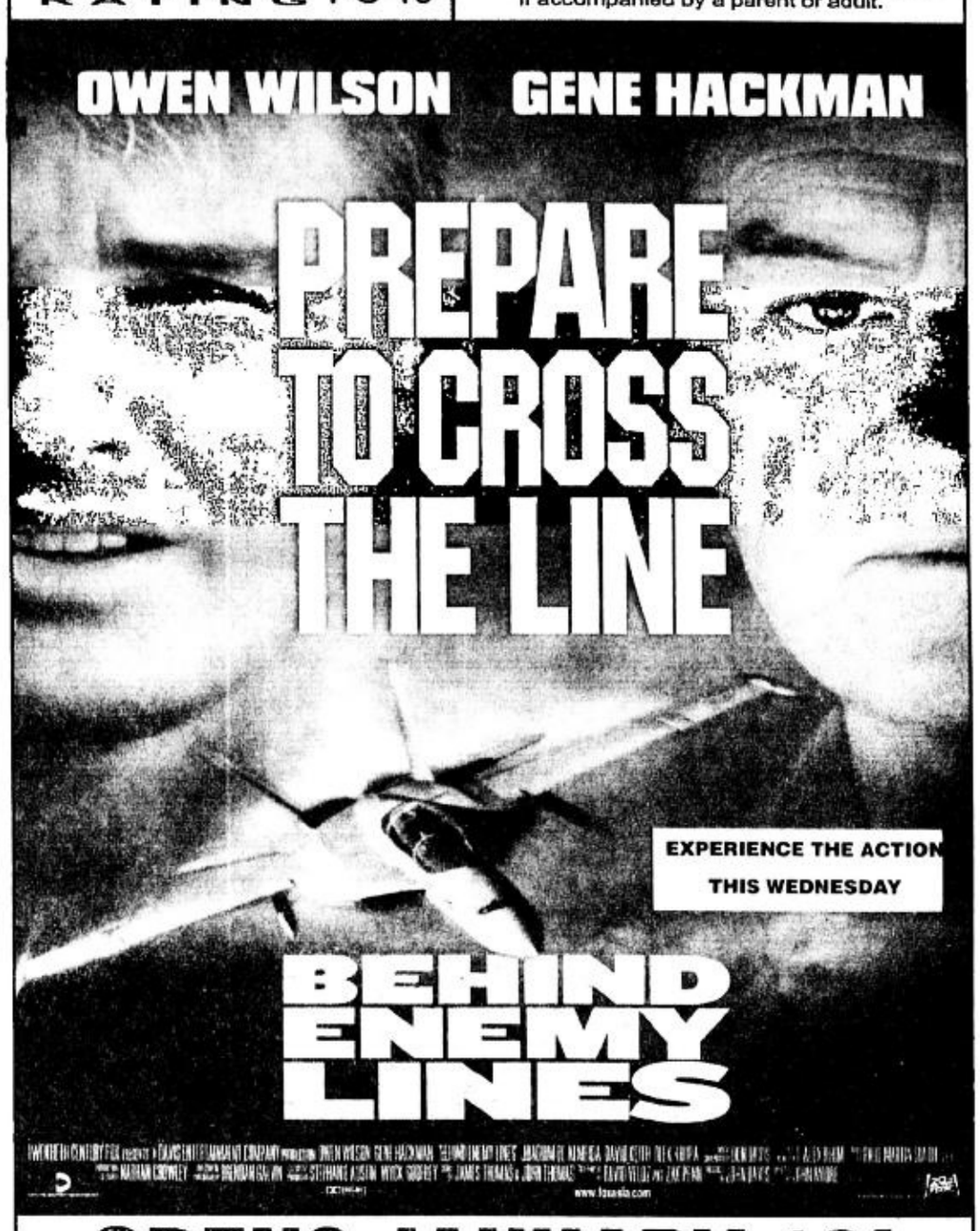
MTRCB RATING P13

Regular showing starts Jan. 16 at the SM CINEMAS.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

OWEN WILSON GENE HACKMAN

PREPARE TO CROSS THE LINE



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LORD OF THE RINGS

JINGGOY ESTRADA
BAYANI AGBAYANI
and
JUDY ANN SANTOS

Walang Iwanan...!
PeKsMan!

Produced & Directed by: TOTO NATIVIDAD dgpi

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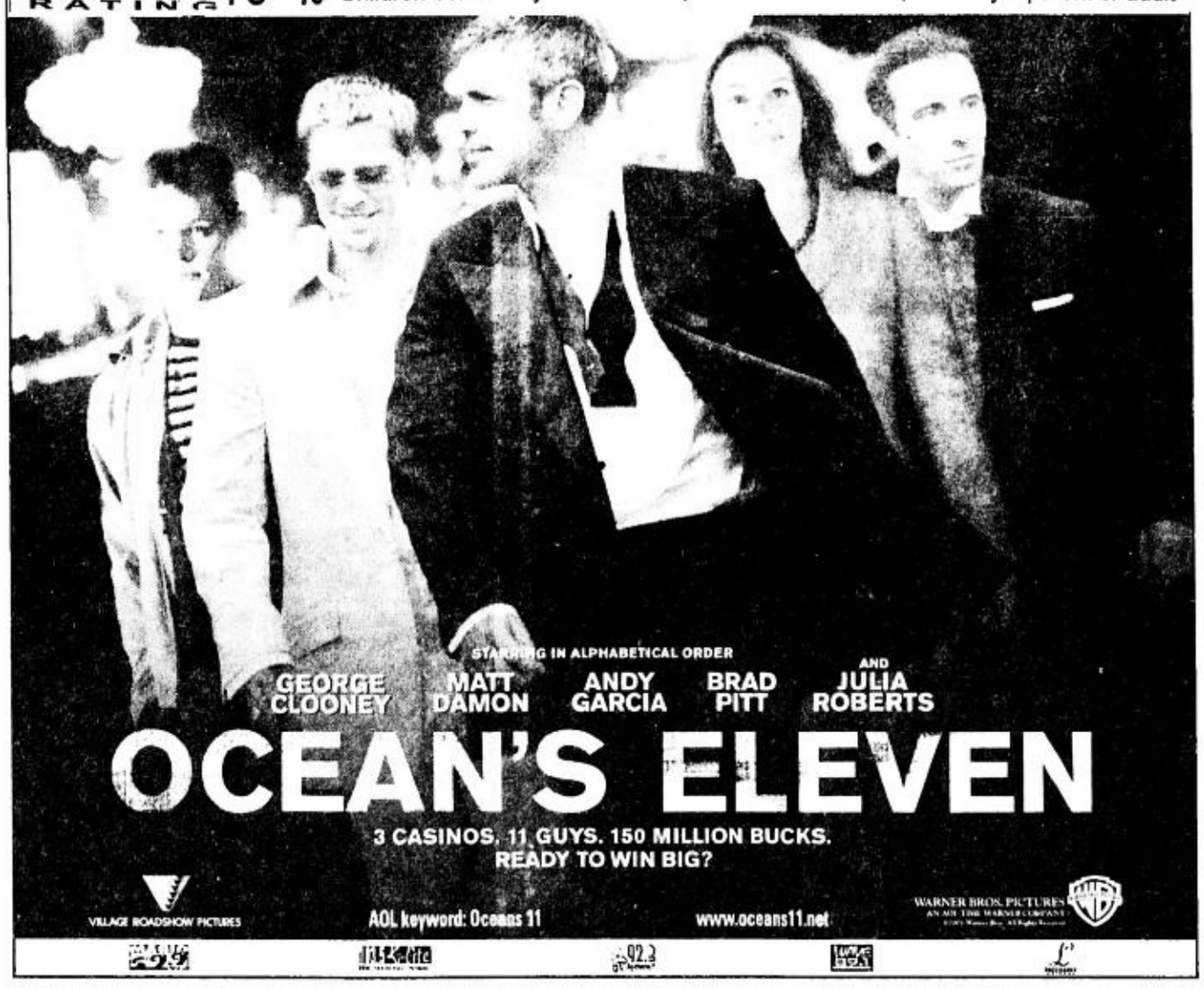

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Move over... The Hunks Ang Bagong Kilig to the Bones

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OPENS JANUARY 23 !

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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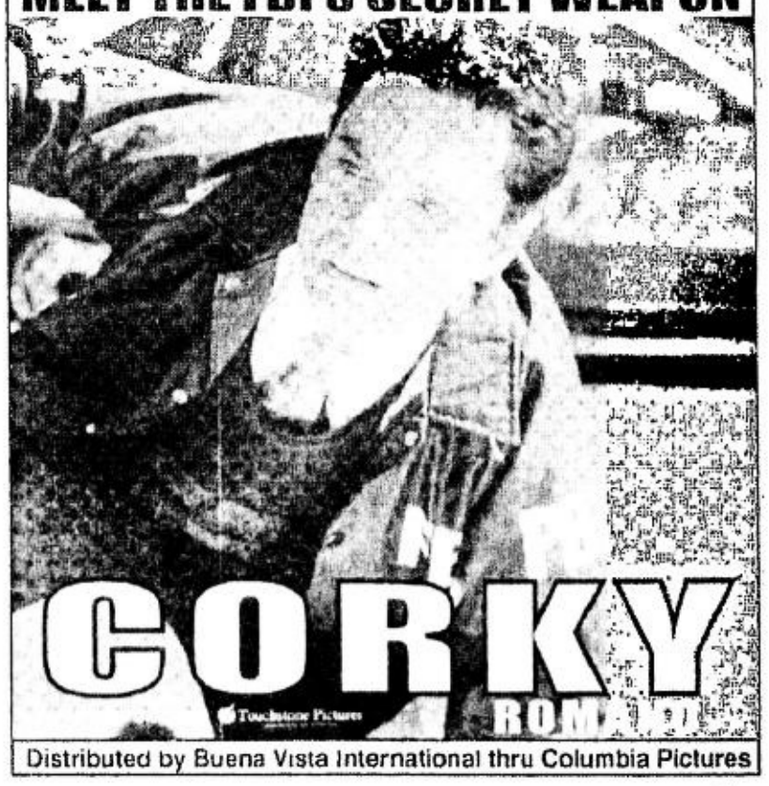

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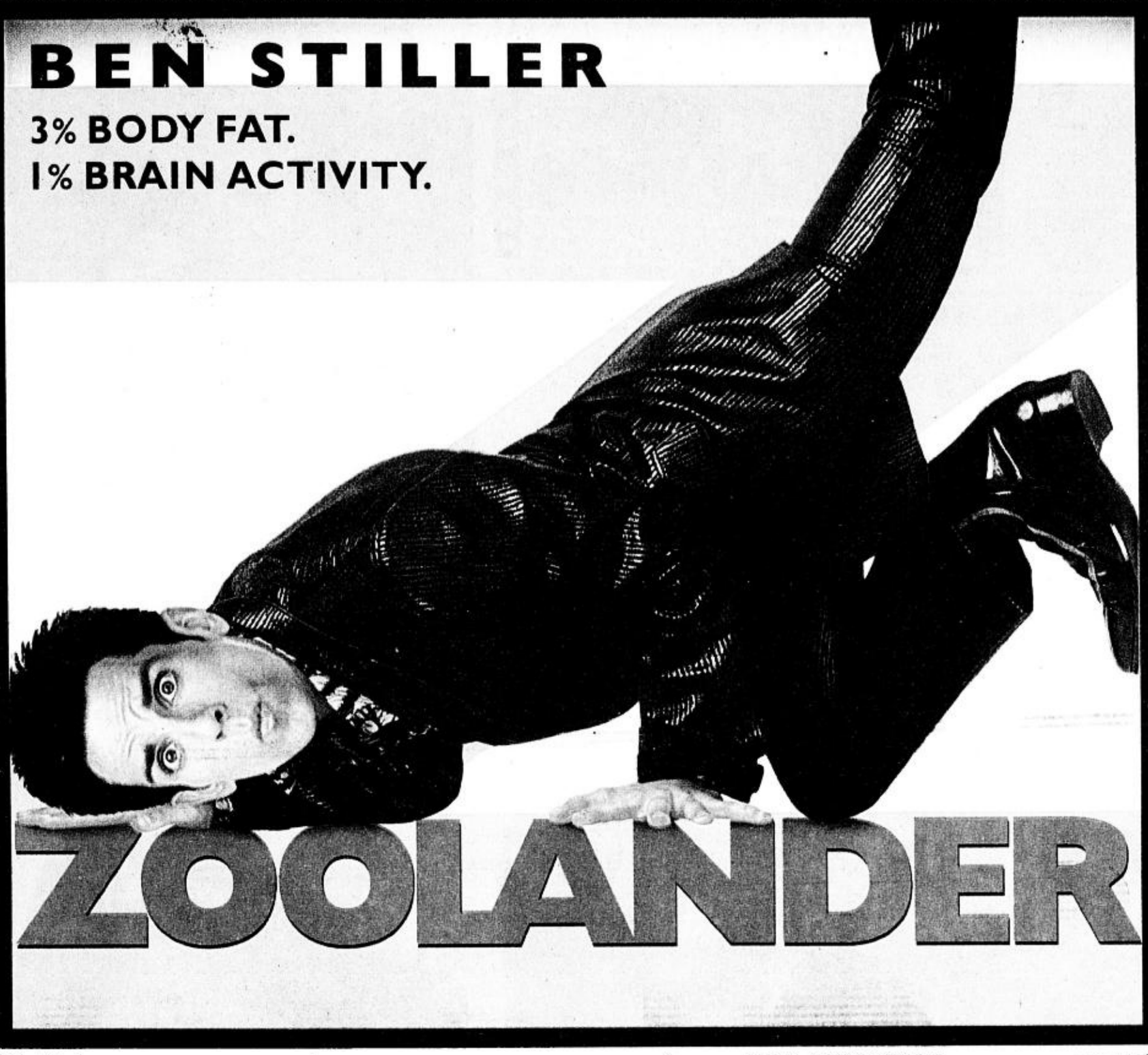

ZOOLANDER

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MTRCB Rating: PG-13

Join the Smart Cinema Club now and get exclusive access to logos, picture messages, group graphics, screen savers, and Zoolander personality tests!

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ZOOLANDERL
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Are you a Supermodel?

Test if you're supermodel material or not.
Key in **PLAY ZOO**, then send to 239.

To answer the questions, press REPLY and key in the number <1,2, or 3> corresponding to your choice, then send to 239.

Are you a Trendsetter or a Follower?

Time to separate the leaders from the copycats.
Key in **PLAY ZOO2**, then send to 239.

To answer the questions, press REPLY and key in the number <1,2, or 3> corresponding to your choice, then send to 239.

How much Brain Activity?

Find out how much of your brain is active.
Key in **PLAY ZOO3**, then send to 239.

To answer the questions, press REPLY and key in the number <1,2, or 3> corresponding to your choice, then send to 239.

Note: If you're playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first before you start the personality test. To quit, key in QUIT and send to 239.

Get a pair of Zoolander premiere tickets for FREE!

Two ways to join!

1 Download a Zoolander logo, group graphic, picture message, and screen saver.

a. To access Zoolander logos, group graphics, picture messages, and screen savers, you must be a Smart Cinema Club member.

To join:
- Key in **JOIN CINEMA** and send to 239.

b. Once you are a member, you may download Zoolander icons. Simply follow the table on the right.

c. Smart Cinema Club members who show their Zoolander icons (on their celfones) on January 12, 2002 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Smart Cinema Club booth (SM Megamall Cinema 3) shall get two tickets each to watch the premiere on the same night at 8 p.m.

To Get Zoolander...	Key in...
Logo List of Keywords	LOGO ZOO and send to 239
Logos	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
Group Graphics Keywords	GROUP ZOO and send to 239
Group Graphics	GROUP <keyword> and send to 239
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC ZOO and send to 239
Picture Messages	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Screen Savers List of Keywords	SAVER ZOO and send to 239
Screen Savers	SAVER <keyword> and send to 239

All text messages will be charged P2.50 each. Logos, graphics, picture messages, and screen savers are P12.00 each.

2 Use your SMART Money card to buy movie tickets at any SM Megamall cinema.

a. Smart Money cardholders who use their cards to buy any movie ticket at any SM Megamall cinema from January 5-11, 2002 are also entitled to a pair of premiere tickets each.

b. Present the Smart Money receipt on January 12, 2002, 6 pm, at the Smart Cinema Club booth (SM Megamall Cinema 3), to claim the free tickets.

- Note: Smart Cinema Club members and Smart Money cardholders can avail themselves of the promo only once.

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

PAL, Piatco seek end to airport row

BY ABIGAIL L. HO AND GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

FLAG carrier Philippine Airlines said it would no longer resist transferring to the Naia Terminal 3 if both its local and international operations would be accommodated there.

PAL president Avelino Zapanta said in a telephone interview yesterday that they have been in talks with Naia-3 builder Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. on a possible agreement.

"There are possible conditions. We've been talking for a long time already. Basically, our domestic and international operations have to be under the same roof," he told the INQUIRER.

He reasoned that PAL stood to lose a big chunk of its revenues if it would be forced to place its domestic and international operations in separate terminals.

Towing one aircraft from one terminal to another and from PAL's hangar to the terminal, Zapanta said, took at least an hour. Every hour they spend merely towing their aircraft would translate to foregone earnings, he added.

"We'll be wasting aircraft time towing our aircraft. We have 29 aircraft. That's 29 hours. Imagine the lost revenues. A flight to Cebu takes only one-and-a-half hours. Translate that to revenues," he said.

He added that conducting operations in separate terminals would mean double the number of employees and double the equipment. They would also have to buy additional aircraft to avoid foregone earnings.

"If we split our operations, we'll have to buy two to three new aircraft that cost $80 million to $100 million. And if you're in two locations, you have to divide your operations—double the manpower, double the equipment. Our customers don't like it, too. They don't want to shuttle from one terminal to another," he said.

Piatco, for its part, is considering PAL's proposal, said company spokesperson Moises Tolentino.

"There's no official word yet from the board. It will still be discussed in a board meeting next week. But what's important is that both parties are talking. There's a narrowing of the gap between Piatco and PAL," he said.

He added that PAL's proposal, though with merit, had good and bad points. These would be the points Piatco's board would discuss.

For instance, "accommodating their domestic operations would limit our accommodation for more international flights," he said.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez expressed confidence that PAL and Piatco would be able to arrive at a "win-win solution" before the Naia-3 starts operations in December this year or January 2003.

"It looks okay. They're negotiating. They have to strike a win-win solution. They have to, for practicality also, because the terminal is almost finished already. They can't continue fighting," he said.

Piatco's board of directors is expected to arrive at a decision whether or not to accept PAL's proposal when they sit down for a meeting next week, Tolentino said.

Philippine Airport Ground Services Inc. (PAGS) president Jefferson G. Cheng also confirmed the talks, adding he wanted to work hand in hand with PAL to ensure the success of the project.

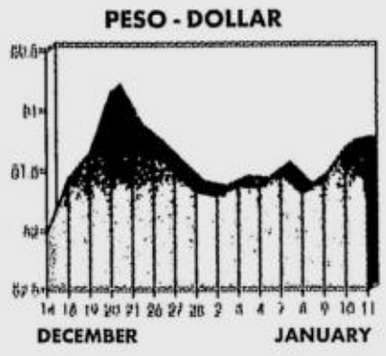
Cheng said that it was important to get the cooperation of PAL because it was the country's flag carrier. Cheng stressed that Naia Terminal 3 was being built for the good of the country and the aviation industry.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

Peso-Dollar Rate

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

₱51.28 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 11, 2002

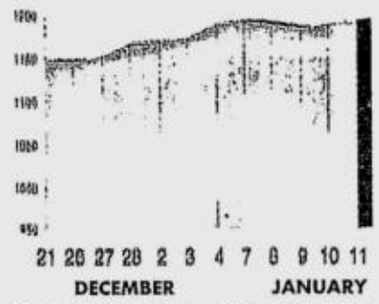
¥132.36 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 11, 2002

GOLD:$287.40/287.90
per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 11, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares end higher

PSE Composite Index



SHARES closed higher yesterday, bucking some selling pressure on the positive sentiment spurred by the over-subscription of the country's $750-million global bond issue, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed 2.12 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1191.60 after rising Thursday by 5.68 points to 1189.48. *AP*

(See stock market report on Page B2)

SM Prime voted best managed company

SM PRIME Holdings Inc., the country's premier and leading shopping mall developer, was voted anew by investors worldwide the runaway winner as the Philippines' "Overall Best Managed Company in 2001" and "Best Managed Company Over the Last 10 Years" among the country's top companies. The blue chip company was also named No. 1 in corporate shareholders, and access to senior management.

The Best Managed Companies poll was undertaken by Asiamoney, the financial magazine based in Hong Kong and a subsidiary of Euromoney. The results were published in Asiamoney's December 2001/ January 2002 edition in an article titled "Slow and steady wins the race," detailing how "investors have applauded the region's most stable companies" and why "it takes real quality of management to keep investors on your side when all around you is going horribly wrong."

RP not going Argentina's way, IMF, GMA assure

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured that the Philippines would not be another Argentina as the administration would seriously pursue reforms to sustain economic growth amid weak global conditions.

The International Monetary Fund also noted that the Philippines was not vulnerable to weaknesses that put pressure on the economy of Argentina.

"There are doomsayers who say we will be like Argentina but I assure you that we are very, very far from Argentina," the President stressed during yesterday's conference sponsored by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

The Philippines was often lumped with emerging markets like Argentina whose huge public debt underpinned by foreign exchange problems led to an economic crisis during the second half of 2001. The economic problems led to riots in the streets of Ar-

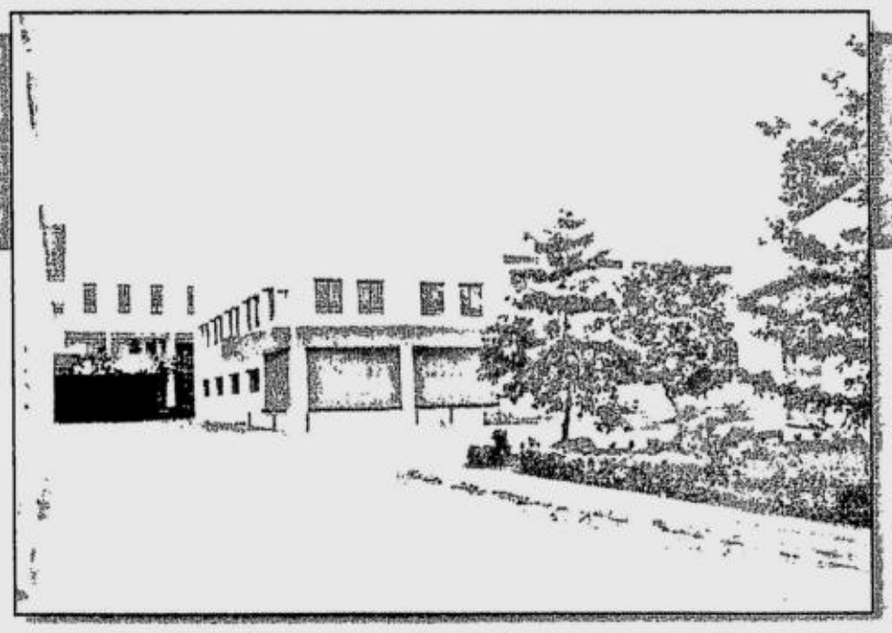
RP/ B2

EU COUNCIL PRESIDENCY TURNOVER

The Council of the European Union the other day turned over the presidency of the European Commission to Spain. Addressing a press conference on the occasion of the handover is Luc Vandeborn of the delegation of the European Commissioner, right. Others are Ambassador Peter Rosting of Denmark and Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja of Spain. European Union trade with the Philippines totalled 8.8 billion euros in January-September 2001. BETOY JOHNSON

CONGRATULATIONS!

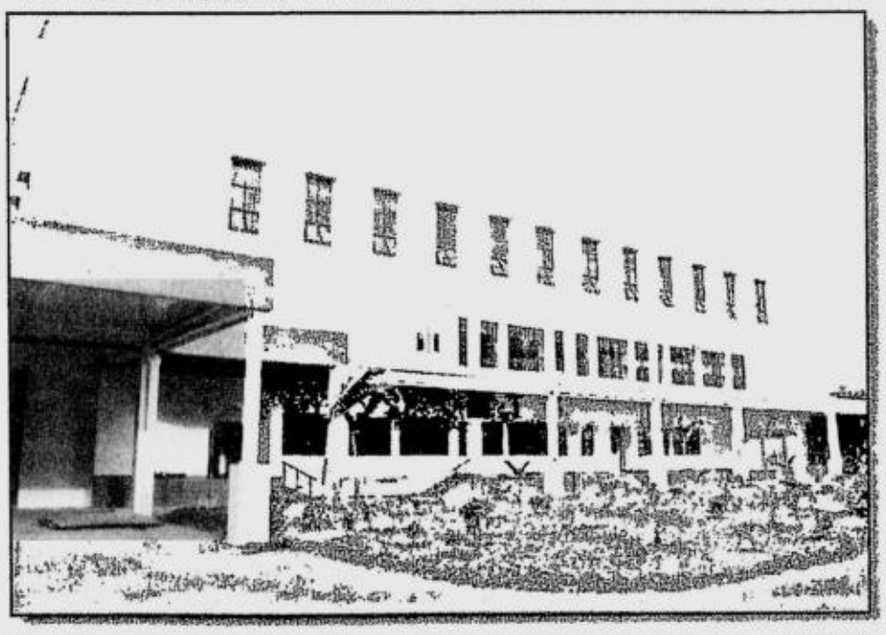
SPLASH CORPORATION

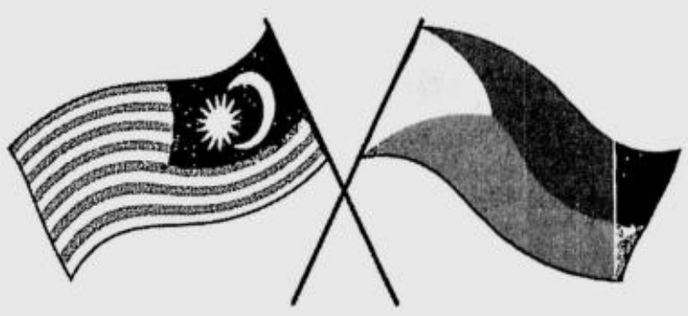


"Bagong Pilipino, Maka-Pilipino, Kayang tumapat sa buong mundo!"

on the

Inauguration of its New Manufacturing Plant and Support Facilities





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Once more with failings

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NOTHING is wrong with the economy, fundamentally, but still business confidence is down. If you don't want to go crazy, don't even try to explain such an irony!

For it's just like listening to the long speeches and even longer soundbites of certain senators. It doesn't make any sense at all.

Reports said, for instance, that this cute administration just wrapped up a $750-million loan package abroad. To think, originally, it was hoping to get only $250 million.

I don't know what kind of bull, whether soft or hard or in-between, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho gave the buyers of those bonds.

Maybe he told them that God talked to him, and that God told him to tell the buyers, well, they should give him hundreds of millions of dollars—just like that.

But I'm certain that they would not take his word for it. Look, I don't just take the Whiz's word for anything. I check. I'm sure all those buyers did.

Still, whatever the Whiz said to market the bonds abroad, the bond float was oversold by three times. It's always hard to argue with success.

* * *

THERE, I did my good deed for the day. I just said this cute administration must be doing something right. It is doing a lot of things wrong, sure, but not everything.

For why would those bond buyers want to tie down some $750 million in this country for a long time? The reports said the bonds mature in 15 years.

That is, even for a bond issue, definitely a long time. You see, 15 years in bond time, is the equivalent of several administrations in human years.

It's like becoming President of the Republic, going into retirement, and then insisting on a comeback by unleashing the attack dogs against this administration. Oops!

Anyway, I am only saying that the foreign investors, apparently, have more confidence in our economy, at least in the long pull, than most of the locals. Sad!

* * *

WHAT'S wrong with the economy, it seems to me, is not the economy. It's doing alright, thank you, under present circumstances in the world—i.e. "big mess."

Of course a lot of things have to be done. But since when did this country not have a lot of things which needed to be done?

Every country always have a steady supply of problems. Go ahead, you can even ask the oldest person in the world, ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. Just kidding, boss!

I am only trying to say, anyway, what's wrong with the economy is none other than politics. My *gudnes, oo,* politics is what's even wrong with politics!

Believe me, some groups really want to kick Gloriaetta out of the Palace, and they do not even necessarily belong to the same camp.

There's a camp—literally. It's somewhere in the south. It's a real training camp for those who are in love with delicate gadgets like guns and bullets. *Nay ko po*!

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY for the economy, those wishing this cute administration of Gloriaetta ill, are in fact just drooling, coveting her position of power.

For what media tagged as "destabilization plot," is not just a plot, not just a story line. It's not fiction. It's not disinformation. It's not propaganda.

If you don't believe me, go ahead, you can even ask Joe Almonte, este, whoever is the recognized expert in such things.

Precisely, we came to know about the plot, because this cute administration's own propagandists leaked it to media.

I think it was a double-edged sword. This cute administration actually took a risk. We might or might not believe what it leaked to media.

But they did not do it, or Gloriaetta would be toast. Apparently, based on Palace assessment, the leak worked. It served to shake the plotters. I don't know if they will soon rattle and roll.

* * *

BUT the leak could have backfired. As one of the camps put it, we might even believe it was just a way for the other camp to ingratiate itself with this cute administration.

We might also think that it was just a way for this cute administration to gloss over its own misgivings. They may not be it's own doing, sure, but people do notice.

For instance, as of last count, the number of jobless people reached close to 5 million. You don't think they profess secret love for this cute administration, do you?

Admittedly, it's not entirely the fault of Gloriaetta. Anybody else could have done worse than she did. We could have become another Argentina already.

It's just that her timing was awful. Just when the world went through bad times, for the first time in a decade, who should be there at the Palace to take the blame?

That's why everybody is blaming her for garbage, traffic, polio, etc. She is the leader, forgodsakes. Who else do we blame? Rod Lawrence Strunk?

* * *

ALL that is apparently behind now. If it's true, and no coup d'etat is going to happen, where does it leave the economy? It's still on the edge, I guess, a victim of politics.

All this talk of coup (i.e. from one camp) and destabilization (i.e. from the other camp) only served to frighten the business community once more with feelings.

My contacts in business note that the Catholic Church even had to announce its own position. This tells them one thing: Time to worry again.

For what all this politics may lead to, eventually, is just another political upheaval. And then where will it all end? Don't tell me until Edsa MCVIII!

That's the fear in business, and it's sapping whatever's left of the already weak confidence. And nobody can blame our businessmen.

Look, some groups already patented the means to overthrow any administration that does not please them. You can see it in their pattern of moves.

Well, they did it before. So why not again and again? Once more with a lot of failing.

LandBank OKs Reynolds' debt restructuring program

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

LAND Bank of the Philippines, the biggest creditor and stockholder of Reynolds Philippines Corp., has approved the financial restructuring plan of the cash-strapped aluminum making company.

This will pave the way for the conversion of the bulk of Reynolds' P2.4-billion debt representing unsecured bank loans.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, RPC spokesperson Maria Olivia Yabut-Misa said the secured portion of the debt would be restructured into seven-year loans.

Yabut-Misa said the plan would transform RPC into a new entity with the majority stake to be held by banks and with its debt load drastically reduced.

With LBP's approval, she said RPC and its financial adviser PentaCapital Finance Corp. were optimistic that they could secure the approval of 67 percent of the company's bank creditors of the plan. The company hopes that the restructuring agreement will be signed by the rest of the creditors before the end of this month.

"The company is also confident that the signing of the restructuring agreement will pave the way for the company's plan to raise around P400 million worth of last-in-first-out (LIFO) funds. The amount will be used to finance the importation of raw materials and fund other working capital requirements which are expected to pave the way for the company's long-term recovery as a viable and profitable company," Misa said.

The disclosure also said that RPC president and CEO Jaime Gonzales had presented an interim recommendation to restart the operations of the manufacturing plant, that was shut down in December, while awaiting the implementation of the rehabilitation plan.

She said RPC's board had approved the interim recommendation as well as a resolution authorizing RPC to secure an interim LIFO loan.

A nine-member management committee was created by the board last October to review and implement the restructuring plan as well as its business plans and programs, capital expenditures and projects. Land Bank was given six of the nine seats in the committee.

The plan was to increase the company's authorized capital stock from P1 billion to P3 billion to facilitate the conversion of the majority of its debts into equity.

The company was earlier castigated by the PSE for its failure to submit its annual report for 2000. But company officials said RPC remained "fundamentally viable" except that its distressed financial condition had made it difficult for the company to hire qualified people to handle its accounting books and financial reports.

RPC was established in 1954 by Reynolds International Inc. of the United States. It manufactures and distributes aluminum sheets, foil and extruded sections used in the packaging, container, construction, appliance manufacturing and vehicle manufacturing industries.

PNOC-EDC bags P214-M overseas drilling contract

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

PNOC Energy Development Corp. recently secured a geothermal drilling contract worth about P214 million or $4.2 million from Lihir Management Co. of Papua New Guinea.

PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol said in a statement the company bagged the contract, their third since 1999, not through a direct award.

"We have been working with Lihir for almost three years now and we have always completed our drilling operations on time if not ahead of schedule," he said.

The former Leyte congressman added that PNOC-EDC earned at least P700 million ($14.4 million) from the first two drilling service contracts.

Apostol said PNOC-EDC would drill for Lihir at least 16 shallow wells, or wells that are at most a kilometer deep.

The eight-month contract also covers cementing and mud engineering services as well as provision of an all-Filipino manpower complement, he said.

Also, he said the state firm was eyeing drilling contracts with Indonesia, Iran, Bangladesh and Australia for this year.

In particular, PNOC-EDC will bid for a contract with a Brisbaine, Australia-based firm which requires drilling for an initial two deep wells, or ones with depths of 5 km or more.

Locally, the firm will continue to serve as a drilling contractor for Philippine Geothermal Inc., the only other geothermal company in the country.

Property sector seen to start recovery

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority is expecting the local property sector to finally pick up this year after a slump triggered by the Asian financial crisis in 1997.

Based on Neda documents, the ownership dwellings and real estate sector was projected to grow by a modest 2.5 to 3 percent this year, a reversal of the one-percent contraction expected for 2001 and the zero growth recorded in 2000.

"You won't believe it but the real estate sector will grow this year," Neda Deputy Director General Gilbert Llanto told reporters.

"If you'd remember, during the socio-economic summit, there was a pact among the different sectors to provide a big support to housing," he said.

The services sector has continued to be the country's biggest growth driver even during the Asian currency crisis and the recent global economic slowdown. Among the sub-sectors of the services sector, however, the property segment had always been the worst performer since downturn of the real estate industry.

The other segments of the services sector that have continued to expand despite the difficult economic conditions and their projected growth for this year were: transportation, communication and storage (9.5 to 9.9 percent); trade (5.8 to 6.3 percent); finance (1.4 to 1.9 percent); private services (5 to 5.5 percent) and government services (1.6 to 2 percent).

Llanto said the services sector would grow by a robust 5 to 5.5 percent this year, better than the 4.2 percent expected for 2001 and the 4.4-percent actual growth in 2000.

The property sector, for its part, is no longer expected to be the sector's laggard and is seen to even outperform the finance and the government services sector this year.

Home Guaranty Corp. president Gonzalo Bongolan agreed that the property sector could finally bottom out this year. Overall, however, he said the expected growth of 2.5 to 3 percent for the sector was still lower than the 4.5- to 5-percent gross domestic product growth targeted by the government for this year.

Bongolan said the biggest rebound in the property sector would likely be in the higher-end segment because of the higher savings expected from the sector.

He said the pace of rebound from the lower-end property sector, such as mass housing, would depend on government initiatives and programs on housing.

"We just had a housing summit and a socio-economic summit, and we listed there an array of initiative programs aimed at boosting mass housing," Bongolan said.

Allied Bank unit to help sell BSP's acquired assets

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

ALLIED Pacific.com, a subsidiary of Allied Bank, yesterday signed an agreement to help the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas dispose of its acquired assets.

The BSP has about P50 billion worth of real estate assets, most of which were foreclosed from banks that were unable to pay their advances from the central bank.

The memorandum of agreement was signed yesterday by BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura and Pacific Allied chair Peter Favila, former president of Allied Banking Corp.

Buenaventura said the agreement would allow the central bank to use the four local and international websites of Allied Pacific to list the assets it would sell or lease. The information technology firm, for its part, will help the BSP find buyers or lessors of the BSP assets.

He said the central bank would like to show that it was one with the banking sector in taking an aggressive stance to rid the system of soured loans and bad assets.

"With the MOA, the BSP looks forward to utilizing Allied Pacific's ability to provide information technology and asset management services, and to promote the sale or lease of acquired assets," the central bank chief said.

The BSP pointed out that an aggressive disposal of its acquired assets would help pump-prime domestic activity.

DISCLOSURES

REYNOLDS Philippines Corp. has elected the following officers: Jovencio Cinco, chair; Jaime Gonzales, president and chief executive officer; Jorge Navarra, treasurer and chief financial officer; Arthur Ponsaran, corporate secretary; and Ma. Olivia Yabut-Misa, assistant corporate secretary.

* * *

REPUBLIC Cement Corp. announced the resignation of Manuel Daway as vice president for operations of the company. Elected to replace him was Jung-rak Kim.

* * *

PRYCE Corp. denied having any information that could explain the 38.24-percent decrease in its share price from P0.17 to P0.105 per share.

* * *

ALLIED Bank rescinded its memorandum of agreement with **ASB Development Corp./ASB Realty Corp.** that called for the *dacion en pago* of several ASB assets for its loans worth more than P1 billion.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

RP not going . . .

(From page B1)

gentina and the resignation of its leaders.

The IMF pointed out that the Philippines, unlike Argentina, was able to handle well the isolated problems relating to its currency in the previous years.

Although the country has a huge public debt like Argentina, the Philippines has been able to roll over its borrowings and has not experienced difficulty accessing foreign funds.

"Exchange rate management is an important aspect here and because of this, the Philippines is not vulnerable," said IMF resident representative Sean Nolan during yesterday's 5th Focap conference.

Ms Macapagal also highlighted the achievements of her 11-month-old administration, among them managing the budget deficit within the target of P145 billion, stabilizing the foreign exchange and pushing down inflation rate to 3.9 percent in December, posting a modest economic growth of 3.3 percent last year, and enacting landmark legislation like the power reform law and the anti-money laundering law.

The President also said that her administration would move toward wiping out the deficit and achieving a balanced budget by 2006.

IMF's Nolan, however, noted that the government has to raise taxes aside from strengthening tax administration to achieve a balanced budget without sacrificing important infrastructure programs necessary to attain economic growth.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, January 11, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.8	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58	58	58	1,104,900
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	20
Citystate Savings Bank	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	25	25.5	24.75	24.75	495,000
First E-Bank Corp. 1	.28 1.3	1.28	1.3		50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	197	197	193	195	21,500
Philippine National Bank	64	64	64	64	3,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	600
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.75	16	15.5	16	26,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	430,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1320	1320	1320	1320	1,010
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1050	1030	1050	10,340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp	24	24	24	24	1,100
Diversified Fin. Network	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	110,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	680	670	680	27,480
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	20,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	432.5	435	430	432.5	35,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	50,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	15,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.75	9,800
Manila Electric Co. B	30	31	30	30.5	2,715,700
Petron Corp.	1.52	1.62	1.52	1.56	12,711,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.7	3,699,000
Keppel Phils. Marine, Inc	0.25	0.3	0.25	0.3	920,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2	2	2	2	42,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	131,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	83,100
La Tondena Distillers,Inc	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	200
RFM Corp.	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.3	1,432,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44	44	44	44	92,700
San Miguel Corp. B	54.5	55	53.5	53.5	210,100
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.7	0.7	0.64	0.64	20,000
Ayala Corp.	4.9	5.1	4.9	5	12,566,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.4	3,534,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	130,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	30,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.56	4,300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	760,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.185	0.165	0.18	1,910,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.88	0.88	390,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	743,600
Ionics Inc.	6.8	7.2	6.8	7.2	119,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	177,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.7	1,100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.3	7,590,000
Music Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.235	0.25	3,420,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	130,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Federal Chemicals Inc.	6	6	6	6	3,000
Pryce Corp.	0.095	0.095	0.09	0.09	1,690,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	5,700,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	7	7	7	7	10,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	600,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.43	0.35	0.36	660,000
Manila Jockey Club	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	19,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	31,500
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	70,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	100
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	35,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10	10	3,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10	10	3,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	6,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.5	13,688,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,780,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.35	0.36	5,990,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.9	1.96	1.88	1.88	6,595,000
SM Development Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	2,528,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.022	0.023	0.021	0.021	5,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	550,000
OIL					
Sinophil Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000

CURRENCIES

Jan. 11, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.121453	1.000000	51.4140
Japan	Yen	0.008461	0.007545	0.3879
United Kingdom	Pound	1.615005	1.440100	74.0413
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143810	0.128235	6.5931
Switzerland	Franc	0.675248	0.602119	30.9573
Canada	Dollar	0.701785	0.625782	32.1740
Singapore	Dollar	0.608328	0.542446	27.8893
Australia	Dollar	0.586535	0.523013	26.8902
Bahrain	Dinar	2.974836	2.652661	136.3839
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299047	0.266660	13.7101
Brunei	Dollar	0.605112	0.539578	27.7419
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025447	0.022691	1.1666
UAE	Dirham	0.305407	0.272331	14.0016
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000768	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.891700	45.8459
Brazil	Real	0.469227	0.418410	21.5121
Denmark	Kroner	0.134534	0.119964	6.1678
India	Rupee	0.023219	0.020704	1.0645
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.295119	0.263158	13.5300
Mexico	New Peso	0.120977	0.107875	5.5463
New Zealand	Dollar	0.478231	0.426439	21.9249
Norway	Kroner	0.125542	0.0111946	0.5756
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018737	0.016708	0.8590
South Africa	Rand	0.097688	0.087108	4.4786
Sweden	Kroner	0.109104	0.097288	5.0020
Syria	Pound	0.021946	0.019569	1.0061
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032106	0.028629	1.4719
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001476	0.001316	0.0677

FEWER CONDITIONS

IMF to be more flexible, realistic–Dawson

SINGAPORE—The International Monetary Fund will become more flexible in its requirements and will take into account "realistic" political conditions in borrowing nations, its chief spokesperson, Thomas Dawson, said Friday.

The comments came after criticism that the IMF prescribed bitter medicine that worsened, rather than improved, the condition of countries needing its financial bailouts.

"Certainly in a numerical sense, we certainly believe that we have fewer conditions in programs than previously," said Dawson, the director of external relations for the IMF.

"We are attempting to prioritize them and focus on those that are more important for the macro performance and work with the government on a better sense of what the political realism is," he told reporters after a speech at the American Chamber of Commerce here.

Such conditions will be "better targeted and politically realistic" with the aim of becoming more effective, he said.

The IMF helped organized a multibillion-dollar bailout for countries hammered by the financial crisis that swept East Asia in 1997 and 1998.

However, there were criticisms that the structural reforms it was seeking in return for the aid were too sweeping, went beyond its mandate and led to more hardship for the nations concerned.

Dawson acknowledged that the Asian crisis had taught the Fund important lessons, among them the need to be more flexible.

Flexibility can come in the form of giving more time for reforms to be carried out and excluding conditions that are less important, he added.

"As to when things can be done, there are times when we recognize that particular actions may wind up taking a longer period of time than we necessarily had anticipated in the beginning," he said.

He cited the case of Indonesia, whose IMF program would be reviewed later this month.

"In the particular context of Indonesia, later this month we're having a board discussion to conclude the latest review and the structural reforms. The government clearly understands that they are important and is proceeding," Dawson said.

"Some may wish it to go faster, but I think we recognize that these are difficult issues and it is better to get it done right, take a little bit more time, than do it quickly and wind up weakening the support." *AFP*

ARGENTINES of Spanish descent wait outside the consulate in Buenos Aires to request citizenship to emigrate after the recent devaluation of the Argentine peso. Long lines formed outside the Spanish and Italian consulates in the capital as recession-weary Argentines prepared to leave for their ancestral homelands. REUTERS

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Pacific bloc in 10 years

TOKYO—Japan's economy, trade and industry minister, Takeo Hiranuma, said Friday that Asian and Pacific nations should consider creating a Pacific economic bloc to strengthen economic ties.

"Establishing a broad economic partnership in a Pacific economic bloc would not be bad for Southeast Asia, East Asia as well as Oceania," Hiranuma said in a news conference.

"I think it's good to consider it broadly and with plenty of time—about, say, a 10-year span," he said.

Hiranuma made the comment as Japan and Singapore were set to sign Japan's first bilateral free trade agreement on Sunday. *AFP*

Early access for HK to China

HONG KONG—The proposed China-Hong Kong free trade area could give Hong Kong companies earlier access to the mainland's market than under the World Trade Organization's schedule, a Hong Kong-based securities firm said Thursday.

In a report, Tony Yung, head of research at Asia Financial Securities, said that under the WTO, China had up to six years before it fully opened up.

"If Hong Kong firms could gain access to these sectors two to four years ahead of other foreign competitors, they would enjoy a valuable first-mover advantage in venturing into China's complicated domestic market," he said.

However, this was based on the assumption that the FTA would be set up by early 2003, he added. *AFP*

China vows to protect agri

BEIJING—China's top agriculture official has vowed to protect the country's agricultural sector while making it more competitive, saying the sector faces "major" challenges with China's entry into the World Trade Organization, state media said Friday.

Minister of Agriculture Du Qinglin pledged to "try every means the WTO allows" to protect the sector during a national conference on agriculture Thursday, according to the state news agency Xinhua.

Du said his ministry regarded WTO entry by China last month as a major challenge this year as agriculture will face the greatest shake-up from the accession to the global trade body, he said. *AFP*

Make or break year for UK, euro

LONDON—After years of caveat and caution, Prime Minister Tony Blair must decide this year whether to try to lead Britain into Europe's single currency and claim his place in history.

With the smooth New Year launch of euro notes and coins in 12 European Union nations, many political experts expect Blair to have the courage of his pro-euro convictions and tackle a British public that is skeptical about giving up the pound.

But if, by year's end, the Labor government is still pursuing a carefully honed wait-and-see policy, all bets are off for euro membership before an expected 2005 general election.

"I'm going to put my money on May 1, 2003 for a referendum," Graham Bishop, a euro expert and former government adviser on Europe, said. *Reuters*

Japan in deflationary spiral

TOKYO—Weak wholesale prices and tight money supply figures released Friday showed Japan had fallen into a deflationary spiral, analysts said.

Domestic wholesale prices in December remained unchanged from a month earlier but showed a 1.4-percent drop on an annual basis—the 15th straight month of year-on-year declines, the Bank of Japan said.

"We are in a deflationary spiral," said Seiji Adachi, an economist at Credit Suisse First Boston. *AFP*

Companies confess big mistakes in accounting shift

NEW YORK—In Corporate America, it's time for true confessions.

Companies are starting to admit that they overpaid for acquisitions during the heady Internet boom, and a wave of huge charges to earnings are expected to make up for their past mistakes.

But it's not because boardrooms are suddenly awash with guilt. The "mea culpas" are taking place because of stringent new accounting rules that kick in this year.

The rules are forcing investors to puzzle over massive one-time charges companies are taking to write down the value of goodwill—the premium paid to acquire a company over the book value of its assets—on their books.

The result will turn up some mind-boggling losses that, in some cases, will surge to tens of billions of dollars.

But experts say not to worry—not too much, anyway.

"Investors really have to take it with a grain of salt and ask the appropriate questions about why a write-down was appropriate," said Jack Ciesielski, publisher of Analyst's Accounting Observer, which provides accounting information to institutional investors.

What question should they ask? "They've got to assess how well the management that made the acquisitions was allocating capital. That's the lesson of the write-downs," Ciesielski said.

The multibillion write-offs will dominate the fourth-quarter reporting season, which starts in earnest next week, and spill over into the first quarter.

This clearing of the deck in many cases will result in much higher net income for later on this year, as companies no longer take goodwill write-offs on a quarterly basis.

Writing off goodwill, which is a non-cash item that rests as an asset on company's balance sheet, doesn't affect a firm's cash flow or its operations. That's a point that companies are quick to make in urging investors to ignore these charges.

But should investors really turn a blind eye to mammoth charges that exceed the gross national income of countries like Hungary and New Zealand, such as the $40-billion to $60-billion goodwill-related charge AOL Time Warner announced on Monday?

Hardly, say experts.

"Clearly, one implication is that the value they thought was in the deal is not there," said David Hawkins, a professor at Harvard Business School and an accounting consultant at Merrill Lynch.

During the heady days of the Internet bubble, companies, particularly those in the technology and telecommunications sector quickly snapped up any and every acquisition target in sight using their inflated share price.

Companies typically shell out much more than how much a target company is worth on its books when they acquire it, in the hope that the deal will bring synergies and cost savings that'll boost earnings later.

But when the deal doesn't deliver on the glowing promises made when they took place, or if the market value declines significantly after the acquisition, that goodwill drops in value. The result? A sizable charge that drags down the bottom line.

Ciesielski said the information about deals gone bad should lead investors to question management. "If the buyer's assets were squandered by having a high powered stock price," he said, "then maybe you shouldn't' trust them when they look at something else to buy."

Investors should be wary of companies who try to downplay hefty goodwill charges as purely a consequence of new accounting rules, experts say.

"It raises the issue of credibility, I think, if you suddenly take a write-off now—why didn't you take it earlier?" said Merrill's Hawkins. "It's almost like companies blaming all their bad news on Sept. 11." *Reuters*

Continental reports record Dec. load factor

HAGATMA, Guam—Continental Airlines has reported a 72.4-percent load factor for 2001, 2.1 points below last year's figure.

In December, Continental reported record domestic, international and system-wide load factors of 72.5, 73 and 72.7 percent. The system-wide load factor that month was 1.3 points above the previous record reported the previous year.

Continental reported a record 82.9-percent on-time arrival rate and a record 99.8-percent completion factor for December.

For 2001, Continental's on-time arrival rate, which counted canceled flights as delayed, was 80.7 percent, while its completion factor was 97.6 percent.

Excluding cancellations due to the events of Sept. 11 and subsequent schedule reduction, the on-time arrival rate was 82.2 percent and the completion factor was 99.2 percent.

Continental ended 2001 with cash and short-term investments of more than $1.1 billion, which included $168 million of deferred transportation taxes.

In December 2001, Continental flew 4.5 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) system-wide and 6.2 billion available seat miles (ASMs), resulting in a traffic decrease of 10.6 percent and a capacity decrease of 12.3 percent versus December 2000.

Domestic traffic was 2.9 billion RPMs, down 10.3 percent from December 2000, while domestic capacity was 4 billion ASMs, down 11.3 percent from last year.

Lower year-over-year yields mitigated somewhat by higher load factors resulted in a decrease in estimated system-wide passenger revenue per available seat mile (RASM) of between 14 and 16 percent for December 2001, as compared with December 2000.

For the month of November 2001, RASM declined 17 percent as compared to November 2000.

Continental Express, a wholly owned subsidiary of Continental Airlines, reported a load factor of 62.3 percent for 2001 and a record 61.8 percent for December 2001.

The 2001 load factor was essentially unchanged from the 2000 load factor, and the December 2001 load factor was 0.4 points above the previous record in December 2000.

Continental Express flew 280.5 million RPMs and 454 million ASMs in December, resulting in a traffic increase of 11.3 percent and a capacity increase of 10.7 percent versus December 2000.

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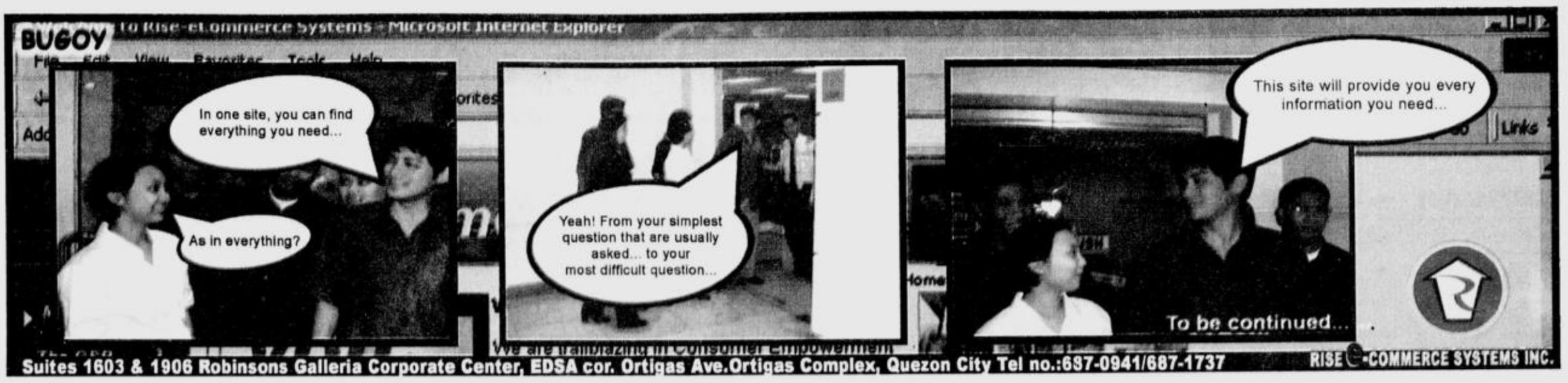

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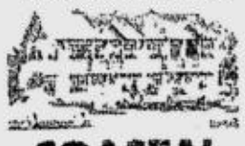

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BFR 1.6M 3BR2TB 8428853

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Owner Leaving Rush Sale 3Stry Mkt Thouse LA-66 FA-198 P6.5M Neg 728-9856

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QUEZON CITY

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09193652573

nr SM CT Bago-Bantay QC 896-9892 P6,500.00

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QUEZON CITY

Bungalow 3BR 3TB 1Mds Qtr Grg near SMFview Call 941-1407; 09193739319

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Studio Type 40 sq.m.
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422 N.S. Amoranto St. corner D. Tuazon Avenue
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SEALED BID SALE of used US government-owned household and office furniture, appliances, office machines, medical equipment, vehicles and scrap on an "As-Is–Where Is" basis.

The property may be inspected at the disposal warehouse, Seafront Compound, US Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on January 14-16, 2002 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 3:30 PM. Bids, accompanied by a cash deposit of at least 20% of the bid price, will be accepted during the inspection dates at the GSO Cashier located at Seafront Compound.

Please be advised that there is no vehicle access or parking available on Seafront Compound. Pedestrian access will be limited to the Roxas Boulevard gate only.

For particulars, please contact:

Ms. Hilda M. Legaspi
Tel. No. 523-1001 extn. 2702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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OFC STAFF 9134470 ANNIX

Ofc Staff rush9134470Anton

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN & TRAVEL 0919-6165084

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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#32 Sct. Santiago cor Dr. Lascano Brgy. Laging Handa,QC Call 3736010, 3727223 & 3743455 Store Hrs. Mon - Sat 10AM-7PM Sun 12NN- 6PM

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LEGAL NOTICE

pNotice is hereby given that the estate of the late spouses DOMINADOR T. MONTALES and JOSEFINA R. MONTALES has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. No. 138; Page No. 106; Book No. 11; Series of 2001 under Notary Public Atty. Antonio G. Avellano of Pasig City
(PDI-Dec. 29, 2001, Jan. 5 & 12, 2002)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late CORAZON C. LOPEZ consisting of personal and real properties had been the subject of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate executed by and among the heirs as per Doc. No. 12, Page No. 4, Book No. 1, Series of 2001 of Notary Public Ma. Rosalie Richa A. Taguian.
(PDI--Jan. 5, 12 and 19, 2002)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

4 MALE MECHANICS
with experience in wheel alignment and underchassis repair graduate of Automotive Course preferred.

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with experience in Automotive Accessories. computer literate preferred.

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college undergraduate and computer literate with pleasing personality

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With exprience in production plant
Tels.292-5813 291-3578
3 Don M. Laurel Drive
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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificates of San Miguel Corp. bearing nos. 01678290, 9960357, 97504375, 96403134, 95298533, 94173922, 93092177, 92046202 89043601, 89021705 88015545 and 88031995 issued to CARMITA-INDAY B. TROSDAL of 98 F. Ramos St. Cebu City, Philippines which in the aggregate represent Two Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Eight (2,568) number of shares were lost or misplaced and could not be found; hence these are to be declared lost and to be reconstituted after cancellation so replacement could be made.
(PDI-Jan. 12, 19 & 26, 2002)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.

For inquiries, please call
912-9008 to 11.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 2,650 MT (53,000 BAGS) more or less Calrose Rice Variety, Grade No. 1, at the indicative price of:

a. Ex-Warehouse Php P25/kg or P1,250/bag

on **January 16** and **24, 2002** at 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM at the Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on **January 14** and **22, 2002** at 10:00 AM at the Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila. In the pre-auction, interested bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling).
b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable banks in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **January 11, 2002** at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For any inquiries, please call tel. nos. 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bidding documents will be available on **January 14, 2002** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 10:00 AM at Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila on **January 22, 2002** and **January 24, 2002**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI -- Jan. 12, 2002)

ERRATUM

In the above ad of National Food Authority published in Philippine Daily Inquirer last January 10 and 11, 2002, the venue for pre-bidding conference to be held on January 14 and 22, 2002 at 10:00 AM should be at the **Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila *not*** at the NFA Boardroom as published.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 31,782 MT (635,640 BAGS) more or less US Long Grain Rice Variety, Grade No. 2, at the following indicative prices:

a. Ex-Vessel - Php P16.50/kg or P825.00/bag
b. Ex-FOT - Php P17.00/kg or P850.00/bag
c. Ex-Warehouse - Php P18.25/kg or P912.50/bag

on **January 24** and **31, 2002** at 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on **January 22** and **29, 2002** at 2:00 PM at the Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila. In the pre-auction, interested bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling).
b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable banks in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **January 21, 2002** at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For any inquiries, please call tel. nos. 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bidding documents will be available on **January 22, 2002** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 2:00 PM at Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila on **January 29, 2002** and **January 31, 2002**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI -- Jan. 12, 2002)

ERRATUM

In the above ad of National Food Authority published in Philippine Daily Inquirer last January 10 and 11, 2002, the venue for pre-bidding conference to be held on January 22 and 29, 2002 at 10:00 AM should be at the **Food Development Center (FDC) Lecture Room, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila *not*** at the NFA Boardroom as published.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street
Pasay City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **QUALITEK-DELTA PHILIPPINES, INC. (QDPI)** with plant site at the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ) has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) an application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its production of solder products such as solder powder, solder paste, solder flux, solder wire and solder bar, based on newness of product and technology, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA (Tel. Nos. 510-2947 and 551-3457; and Telefax 551-3456).

(Sgd.) **LILIA B. DE LIMA**
Director General

(PDI -- Jan. 12, 2002)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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897-8425 (Telefax)

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MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
319 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 818-94-11 local 2325

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The LANDBANK Special Committee for the Selection of Security Agencies (SCSSA) is inviting reputable agencies to pre-qualify and bid for security guard services in the following areas:

AREA	APPROX. NUMBER OF SGS
1. Metro Manila (NCR-North)	300
2. Metro Manila (NCR-South)	300
3. Mindanao (Regions 9,10,11)	300
4. Mindanao (ARMM,CARAGA & SOCSARGEN)	300

The list of prequalification requirements can be obtained from the Physical Security Office, 3rd Floor, Reliable Building, 7230 Malugay St., Makati City during official hours from 8:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m. Requirements shall be submitted to the Chairman, Special Committee for the Selection of the Security Agencies c/o the Secretariat with office address at the Physical Security Office, 3rd Floor, Reliable Building, 7230 Malugay St., Makati City not later than 5:00 p.m. of January 21, 2002.

Pre-bidding conference will be held at the Multi-Purpose Hall, 8th Floor, Building I, 319 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Extn., Makati City on February 4, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. Opening of bids will be on February 8, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the same venue.

The Bank neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid, nor does it guarantee an award will be made.

LANDBANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSAL/BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL/BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

THE CHAIRMAN
Special Committee
for the Selection of Security Agencies

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2002-01

Rebidding Date: January 17, 2002 — 10:00 AM

PB011206-PDED6947 **SERVICES: Supply of Labor, Materials and Supervision for the Fabrication of After and Inter Condenser Health of Palimpinon GPP**

* Opening Date : January 23, 2002 — 10:00 AM
Ebidding Date: January 25, 2002 — 9:00 AM
Pre-Bid Conference: January 18, 2002 — 2:00 PM

2002-01-01 **UNSCHEDULED PARTS REQUIREMENTS OF HELICOPTERS RP-2860 and RP-2870 and BN2T ISLANDER RP-766 (Fuel Quantity/Oil Temperature Indicator, Conduit Assy., Bushing, etc.)**

2002-01-02 **PLAQUE, Clear Acrylic with Polyester Resin Plaque, Clear Acrylic Base with NPC Logo, No Sharp Edge**

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **January 10, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable.

*Last day of issuance of eligibility and bidding documents is on **January 17, 2002.**

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For inquiries please call No. 921-25-74.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - Jan. 11 & 12, 2002)

OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

NICASIO TUPAS SAN MIGUEL

of Morong, Rizal
1930 - 2002

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center on January 11, 2002.

His bereaved wife **Irene**; children **Ruby, Roni, Chito** and **Cherry**; children-in-law, grandchildren, brother and sisters, and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, 97 Tupas Street, Morong, Rizal. A funeral Mass will be held at the Morong Catholic Church on January 13, Sunday at 2:00 PM.

Interment will follow at the Holy Angels Memorial Park in Morong, Rizal.

Your face lights up the clear, bright sky, looking at us with warm, happy smile! Joy fills our hearts, you're not gone, Joey, you just left for awhile.
Feel the warmth of our love, each day and every night, Forever you'll be a part of our lives.
Have a peaceful rest Joey... Remember, it isn't goodbye!

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

ENGR. FELIX JOSE L. COMUYOG "JOEY"

who peacefully joined his Creator on January 12, 2001.

His family and loved ones request relatives and friends to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses shall be offered today January 12, 2002 at Parish of San Roque Church, Pateros, Metro Manila, 6:00 a.m., Garden of Memories at 2:30 p.m.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451, 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills Lahug Cebu City Tels. 231-3721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City. Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Cubao, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683, 781-3705, 781-3688, 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086, (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City. Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Maniquil, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3084

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Coke plays host to 3 million guests

SINCE it was launched in 1995, the plant visit program of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) in all its 19 plants has accommodated about 3 million guests, mostly students going on field trips from all CCBPI plants nationwide.

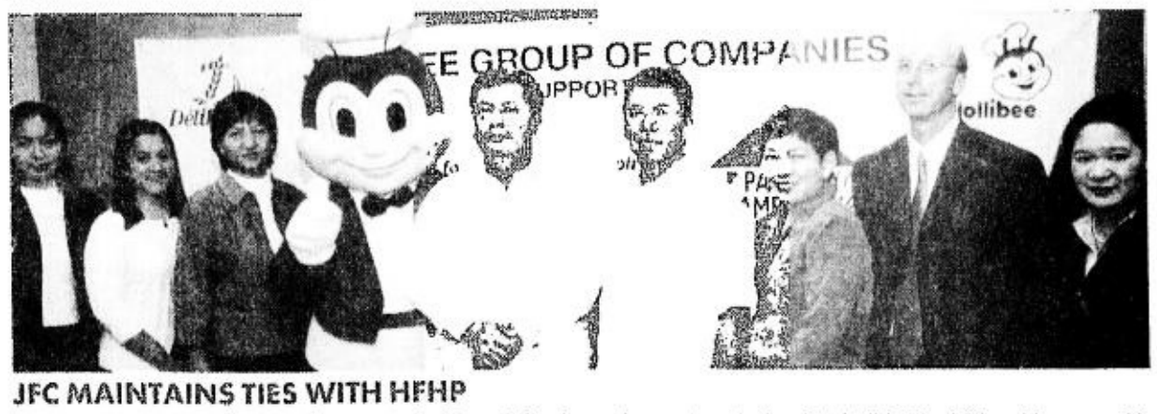
The plant tour is a well-loved tradition over the years and CCBPI is glad to have welcomed all these guests.

According to Milagros Llorin, CCBPI vice president and corporate affairs director. "Introducing guests, specially children, to the world of Coca-Cola is a wonderful experience. It is so fulfilling to see the excitement of the guests as they eagerly walk through the production facilities watching the Coca-Cola production process. As an added treat, everybody gets to drink ice-cold Coca-Cola after the tour."

A visit to any Coca-Cola plant from Luzon to Mindanao, is what educational field trips are all about. A venue where guests, kids and adults alike learn in an atmosphere of fun and excitement.

"We encourage everyone to pay us a visit at the Coca-Cola Plant. Here, one will discover that there is more to just Coca-Cola as a beverage. At Coca-Cola, we work in preserving and maintaining the environment in which we work, provide education in underserved areas, and a whole lot more. Most of all, one gets to learn a lot and enjoy," said CCBPI president and chief executive officer Genaro V. Lapez.

As CCBPI plants enter another year, everyone is welcome to experience CCBPI's plant visit programs and activities. Witness how science and technology work in all of the 19 Coca-Cola plants and be part of the millions who have witnessed the wonderful world of Coca-Cola.



JFC MAINTAINS TIES WITH HFHP

Jollibee Foods Corp. (JFC), the country's biggest food conglomerate, pledged to build 40 additional homes with Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) through the Pabahay, Pambuhay 2, JFC's nationwide mass housing program. A memorandum of agreement was recently signed by JFC and Habitat officials at the Jollibee Corporate Center in Ortigas. Shown are JFC and HFHP executives (from left) Ding Gutierrez of Chowking; Cleng de la Paz of Greenwich; Susan de Guzman of Delifrance; lawyer Claro Certeza, JFC vice president for legal and corporate affairs; Joey Mendoza, HFHP executive director; Jonjie de los Reyes, HFHP resources development director; Rick Hathaway, HFHI regional director for East and Southeast Asia; and Arlene Fausto, HFHP resident development manager.

CHED ENDORSES GLOBE PROGRAM

Globe Telecom has once again received the endorsement of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for its 7th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards (GTAAA). Inspired with the theme 'Nurturing a Global Mindset in Young Filipino Leaders,' the program aims to recognize young Filipino students who excel in Science and Math subjects in High School and Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) and Electrical Engineering (EE) in College. Shown is CHED chair Ester A. Garcia with Globe Telecom AVP for public relations Jones T. Campos (third and second from left, respectively). With them are Globe PR assistant Steve Piczon, Globe PR associate Cecilia Odoño and Globe PR officer Stephanie Velasco.

EASYCALL STOCKHOLDERS MEET

EasyCall Communications Philippines Inc. (Ecpi) recently held its 2001 annual stockholders' meeting at the Galleria Suites, where the company bared its new set of officers and unveiled its new business and corporate thrusts in the contact center and Internet markets. The event also marked the launching of EasyCall's newest product, the EZ Surf Prepaid Internet Card. Shown (from left) is Ecpi CFO Loh Kai Keong with director Victoria Z. Egan, vice chair and CEO J. Roberto Delgado, chair Modesto Cervantes, president and COO Socorro Niro and director Jonathan Cervantes during the stockholders meeting.

LRTA CORPORATE PLANNING

Officials and staff of the Light Rail Transit Authority, led by LRTA administrator Teddy Cruz (fifth from left, seated) recently held a corporate planning workshop to plan and formulate the agency's policies and strategies that would enhance its service to the public. The LRTA targets a 100-percent increase in passenger capacity by 2004 by modernizing and expanding its system to ease transportation and traffic woes along Taft and Rizal Avenues.

TALK 'N TEXT LUCKY SUBS DINE WITH 'TRIP' BARKADA

The top 20 winners of the Talk 'N Text Movie Club 'Trip' promo had the rare privilege of dining out with the whole cast 'Trip,' a fun, teen movie which recently premiered in local cinema. The lucky subscribers, who each won two tickets to the premiere night, dined out with the teen stars at Mario's Restaurant at St. Francis Square in Ortigas Center right after the premiere showing. Shown are teen stars Onemig Bondoc and Heart Evangelista posing with the lucky Talk 'N Text users.

APEC taps Daikin-Alen for aircon seminar

FOR the second straight year, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) and the Overseas Vocational Training Association (Ovta) commissioned Daikin-Alen Air Conditioning Inc. to conduct its just concluded annual technical seminar for aircon technicians.

Dubbed as Apec Vocational Training Project in Cooperation with Enterprises, the free technical training was held at the Daikin-Alen Malinta Plant from Dec. 4 to 8. This was part of the continuing fulfillment of the "Osaka Action Plans" (OAP) which were adopted at the Apec Conference held in Osaka, Japan in Nov. 1995. The project aims to contribute to the local society through human resources development in various technical fields – including aircon manufacturing and repair / maintenance.

For five days, Daikin-Alen officers and engineers unselfishly shared their technical expertise to trainees from all over the Philippines. Aircon specialists from Daikin Japan and Daikin Singapore were also present to complement the local trainors. The seminar covered extensive lectures and hands-on training on the fundamentals of refrigeration, refrigeration cycle, electrical wiring, parts and function, assembling electric wiring and inspection, installation of air conditioner, ozone layer destruction and gas recovery, troubleshooting, and aircon repair. With the full support of Apec, Ovta and Daikin – Japan's No. 1 aircon specialist, all the participants gathered a wealth of technical knowledge and world-class technical skills which will benefit them and their families for the rest of their lives.

The highly successful event was personally graced by Kazuhide Horimoto, president of Daikin-Alen; lawyer Anthonette Velasco-Allones, DOLE Assistant Secretary and Apec-HRD chair; Akio Takihara, labor attache; First Secretary, Embassy of Japan and Eiji Andó, general manager of Ovta.

FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine is 50

THE FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine in Fairview, Quezon City is celebrating its 50th anniversary on Jan. 17.

Dr. Reynaldo de Vega, chair of the committee on publicity, said the celebration presents the following activities: "Lakad sa Kalusugan"; Holy Mass; the 24th Dr. Lauro H. Panganiban Memorial Lecture with Dr. Renato Ramos as speaker; Students' achievement award; service award for the employees and sportsfest. The theme is "Continuing Dedication and Responsiveness."

It was in 1952 when the FEU Institute of Medicine opened its doors to the first batch of medical students. In 1960, the Institute started another branch of training in medical service when it admitted the first batch of students in the new Medical Technology course. Aug. 7, 1970 saw the conversion of the Institute of Medicine, the School of Medical Technology, into a non-stock, non-profit educational foundation now known as the Far Eastern University – Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation.

The School of Physical Therapy received its permit to operate the first and second year level in 1994 at the FEU-IAS with the first batch of third year students accepted to the Medical Foundation in 1996. In April 1999, the first batch of Physical Therapy students was graduated.

Records management seminars slated

RECORDS management plays a vital role in creating a positive image, contributes to overall productivity and quality of service, as well as reduces costs. Employees with proper training in records management functions are therefore valuable assets in any organization.

Companies and organizations can avail themselves of the benefits of having trained record-keepers through a basic records management seminar to be held on Jan. 28. An advanced program on records management will also run on Jan. 29 to 30.

InfoRRMMS Consulting has organized the seminars to include lectures, group discussions, open forum, and several group and individual workshops to enhance learning and retention. The seminars feature several hands-on exercises and also provide solutions to bad filing practices and negative attitudes toward recording keeping.

Resource person for the seminars is Lourdes Coz-Manguerra who has conducted close to a hundred records management seminars for both government and private organizations.

For further information, interested parties may call InfoRRMMS at 633-2086 or 89 or e-mail informms@info.com.ph.

InfoRRMMS Consulting handles research and monitoring services, records management systems, and marketing and management consulting.

'FINDS' FOR ANNIVERSARY

Earth+Style My Home magazine celebrated its 1st anniversary through a furnishing and décor fair titled 'Finds' held recently at the Enterprise Center in Makati City. Shown (from left) are Mega magazine editor-in-chief Sari Yap, My Home publisher Joy Basilio-Madlansacay, Daphne Oseña, Angel Aquino, and My Home editor-in-chief Tina Bonoan.

ALL FOR DOH'S GARANTISADONG PAMBATA

Philippine Band of Mercy (PBM), a charitable foundation for children with a goal to aid disfigured indigent Filipinos, together with KFC and Mister Donut recently supported the Department of Health's Garantisadong Pambata in partnership with the local government units and other government organizations. GP is a twice-a-year campaign supporting various health programs like giving vitamin A capsule supplements to all 12 to 59-month-old children, immunization, distribution of iron supplements to infants and pregnant women and other services that promote positive child behaviors. Shown is DOH Secretary Dr. Manuel M. Dayrit providing the health service to a child benefactor during GP's launched activity held at the Municipal Hall in Parañaque City while other kid participants look on.

HAVE YOU METLIFE TODAY?

MetLife Insurance Company of the Philippines, a wholly owned subsidiary of US insurance giant MetLife, has chosen Great Wall Advertising Philippines Inc., one of the oldest advertising firms in the country, as its communications partner. Great Wall's more than five decades of experience in the communications and advertising is expected to bring MetLife Philippines closer to hardworking Filipinos who are looking for an insurance company which can provide them peace of mind in order to live life. Shown are (left) MetLife Philippines country manager Steve Meyers, and (right) Great Wall president Rey Anthony David Jr.

PSLIS 3-day seminar

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Librarians and Information Specialists (PSLIS), Inc. will conduct a three-day seminar workshop on "Strategic Collection Management and Information Access" at the Safari Lodge, 191 Leonard Wood Road, 2600 Baguio City on Feb. 14 to 16.

The objectives of this seminar-workshop are to encourage the preservation and archiving of information in digital format, to provide the participants with the necessary indexing and cataloging skills as tool to organize library collection, and to encourage the application of IT innovation to restore and retrieve in a timely manner the desired information.

For further inquiries call Lyn at 724-1994; Lily at 929-2180; Lito at 839-1450; Medy at 897-8808 local 329; Joven at 527-9672; Beth at 932-1295.

POLIO-FREE PHILIPPINES

Why you should have your child vaccinated again

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THE IMPORTANCE of having Filipino children vaccinated against polio despite the Philippines, and the entire Western Pacific Region of the World Health Organization, being certified "polio-free" in 2000 was brought to fore this week following news reports of three confirmed new polio cases in the country.

If the Philippines was certified polio-free, why were there new cases detected last year?

Certification is different from eradication. Polio eradication is defined as ending the transmission of "wild" poliovirus (this is different from "vaccine-derived" polio, more on this later). Certification is the process which verifies that a region (or country) is polio-free.

Requirements

For a region to be certified polio-free there should be no new cases of "indigenous" (as differentiated from "imported") polio three years preceding the certification. The last wild polio case in the Philippines was detected in Cebu in 1993.

Another requirement for certification is that the region must have a very strong Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance system. (AFP is a weakening of the muscles particularly in the arms and lower extremities. It is a symptom of various diseases like polio and Guillian-Barre Syndrome).

The 37 countries in the WHO Western Pacific Region (including the Philippines) were certified polio-free by the WHO in October 2000. It was the second region to be certified polio-free, after the WHO Region of the Americas in 1994. If things go as planned, the entire world will be certified polio-free in 2005.

Meanwhile in the Philippines, the AFP surveillance system was able to monitor and confirm three polio cases, according to the Department of Health.

The first case was an 8-year old boy from Cagayan de Oro City who developed paralysis on March 15, 2001, even though he had received three doses of the oral polio vaccine (OPV). The second was a 3-year-old girl from Laguna, who also received three OPV doses, and had signs of meningitis but no paralysis on July 23. The third was a 14-month-old boy from Cavite who developed paralysis on July 26 even though he had two doses of OPV.

Confirmation of the presence of the poliovirus in their bodies was done through laboratory tests of their stools. The tests were done in compliance with WHO requirements of strict AFP surveillance (where all those who develop AFP have to be tested for polio).

Mutant poliovirus

What caused public concern was the DOH declaration that the three children developed a "mutant" poliovirus. (The word "mutant' would raise a lot of concern anywhere.)

According to Dr. Agnes Benegas of the DOH National Epidemiology Center, the three developed what is known as vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV). They got the poliovirus from the OPV they received.

VDPV (or what the DOH calls "mutant" poliovirus) can strike even those who have taken OPV. This happens for various reasons. One major reason is low immunization coverage. Another is immune deficiency of the person.

It is possible, Benegas explained, for a child who has OPV to develop VDPV if he is malnourished or if the vaccine he received did not work as effectively as it should.

It is much like the measles vaccine where a child can still develop measles even if he was immunized against it, she said.

Benegas said that recent laboratory tests on the three children showed that they had no more trace of the poliovirus in their system. She said the boy from Cagayan de Oro has residual paralysis but this was likely caused by another disease that was detected by his doctors. All are on their way to full recovery.

Low vaccine coverage

In a public health dispatch on the three cases, the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) noted that the last national polio vaccination round in the Philippines was last conducted in 1997. This was followed by subnational immunization days in 1998 and 1999 that covered only selected areas including Cebu, Davao, Manila and parts of Mindanao. But coverage did not extend to the three provinces that reported the VDPV cases. (At present the Philippines has a polio immunization rate of less than 95 percent.)

The Philippines is only the fourth country in the world to have VDPV. The three others are Egypt, Dominican Republic and Haiti. (The Philippine cases were detected after the implementation of new testing requirements for prospective virus investigations.)

VDPV is "not as complicated" to handle as the wild poliovirus, Benegas said. Controlling its circulation is easy: only a large-scale mass vaccination campaign using OPV is needed.

But if OPV can cause DPVP, why would parents want to bring their children below 5 years to the government *Patak* Centers on Feb. 2-8 and March 2-8 for the first and second polio immunization rounds?

Eradicating polio

In its polio eradication fact sheet, the WHO stresses that without OPV hundreds of thousands of children in the world will be crippled each year by the "wild" poliovirus. (The wild virus is transmitted through the fecal-oral route, when an unvaccinated young child ingests feces that carry the virus.) One in 200 such infections leads to irreversible paralysis and of these paralyzed patients, up to 10 percent die when their breathing muscles become immobilized.

Immunizing all children against polio is material if the Philippines wants to stop the spread of the "mutant" VDPV, which could even turn the polio virus back to its "wild virulence," Benegas said. Immunization will also stop the spread of "imported" wild poliovirus from countries that have not yet been certified polio-free.

As Benegas simply put it: "The more doses a child has, the more protection he will have against polio."

To make sure the country once more has 100 percent coverage against polio (like during Flavier's Alis Disease days), the DOH will not only put up *Patak* Centers but will also conduct house-to-house vaccinations in congested urban areas, especially in Mindanao, Laguna and Cavite (where the three VDPV cases were found).

To make the country, and the world, really polio-free, it is the duty of parents and caregivers to have their children below 5 years immunized once more against polio.

SROGonzales

Cross-species transplants: Keeping it human?

BY MASSIE K. SANTOS
Contributor

XENOTRANSPLANTATION, or transplanting organs from one species to another, is not a new idea.

In 1984, doctors replaced the defective heart of a newborn with that of a baboon. Unfortunately, the child died three weeks later. Eight years later, a woman dying of hepatitis received a pig liver transplant and died within 48 hours. After other failed attempts to successfully perform cross-species transplants (and a movie where Christian Slater's heart had been replaced by a gorilla's), the idea was placed on the backburner. Xenotransplantation surfaced briefly in 2000, though it was quickly overshadowed by stem cell studies.

The idea of cross-species transplants is now back in the spotlight, and all because of five little piglets named Mary, Joy, Angel, Star and Noel.

PPL Therapeutics, better known as the company that produced the now arthritic Dolly the sheep, recently announced that these five piglets had been cloned without one of the two genes that would cause the human body to reject pig organs.

Not to be outdone, Immerge BioTherapeutics, a joint venture of BioTransplant and Novartis, also announced that they managed to breed pigs that could be used as organ donors for humans. More important, unlike PPL Therapeutics, Immerge uses miniature swine for their studies since these animals can reach a maximum weight of only 300 pounds, compared to the domestic swine used by PPL that reaches up 1,000 pounds. Immerge argues that by using miniature swine, the donor and recipient are better matched in weight and therefore make better matches for organ transplants.

Pig virus

While some people vehemently reject the idea of having an animal's organ in them for any reason, the main opposition to xenotransplantation is that viruses may be transferred between species and can be fatal to humans.

This was shown in an *in vitro* study in 1997 that Porcine Endogenous Retroviruses (PERVs) can jump from pig to human cells, though the same study did not show if the humans would be fatally affected by having animal cells in their bodies.

[The creators of the computer game "The Sims" have even explored that idea by making it possible for one of the game's pets (identifying it here would only ruin the surprise for those who haven't found it yet) to infect its owners and eventually kill them.]

Researchers have devoted much of their time since then to make sure PERV could not be transferred to humans. Still, critics, collectively led by the Campaign for Responsible Transplantation (CRT), say that the newfound ability to silence one virus does not guarantee that all animal viruses will not be transferred from donor animals to humans. Even if the recipient human does not get infected with any of the viruses, bacteria or other possible causes of infection, CRT argues, the human body can still reject the donor animal organ.

Unfortunately, as with many scientific arguments, proving either side's argument will require clinical trials on humans over a period of several years. PPL hopes they will be doing just that by 2005.

Human vs animal organs

Would people actually consider xenotransplantation if viable human organs were available? The answer, most likely, would be no.

However, very few people agree to become organ donors, there are too many people around the world on organ waiting lists, and sometimes the donor organs can't be used when they do become available.

Artificial organs are now a more viable option than before, but these may break down faster and do more damage to the patient than the real thing.

A few years back, one columnist suggested that prison inmates, especially those on death row or serving life sentences, should be encouraged to become organ donors. They could be paid for donating the kidney or hand that they would not be needing and the money could be used to support the families they would be leaving behind.

Though the idea of paying people to donate organs is not new, and has once again resurfaced as an incentive for more people to become organ donors, using prison inmates as (willing) donors has yet to find a favorable audience.

(The author can be reached at massie@massie.com.)

The case of the migraine mom

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD

"MY headache is killing me!" This is a familiar complaint of millions of migraine sufferers around the world, including Maureen, a 29-year-old mother of two. Her 3-year-old son even took this remark seriously thinking that his mother was slowly dying because of her "achy head." Maureen's son may overestimate the effect of her mother's migraine but more often than not, people underestimate how painfully bothersome migraine headaches could be.

Migraine is more than just a headache. It is a chronic medical condition for which there is no cure. The migraine begins with a throbbing headache that is usually centered above or behind one eye, or it can begin at the back of the head and spread to one side of the head. It is usually accompanied by nausea, vomiting, blurred vision and tingling and numbness in the limbs that can last up to 18 hours or even more. These physical symptoms of migraine in turn lead to debilitation and emotional suffering that affect people with migraine, their families and their colleagues at work.

Affecting mostly women

Approximately 70 percent of migraine sufferers are women. This is because there are chemicals or hormones in a woman's body that would be more likely to trigger or contribute to the migraine. There is a strong suggestion for underlying physical or chemical factors in the development of migraines. This means that it can likewise be triggered by a variety of other factors. Many medical experts believe that migraine is the result of chemical or electrical changes in the blood vessels of the brain that lead to abnormal blood flow. The pounding or throbbing sensation is caused by a dilatation or swelling of these vessels.

MEDICAL FILES

Many migraine sufferers remain undiagnosed. In Maureen's case, the only reason she sought a doctor's help was that her vision would oftentimes suddenly blur or she would see some vague images. After that, the throbbing would start until she would feel that her head was almost splitting. At first, she thought there was something wrong with her brain, that she might have cancer, so she went to see Dr. Carlos Chua, a prominent neurologist at the Manila Doctor's Hospital.

Maureen underwent a battery of tests including a computed tomography (CT) scan after which the doctor ruled out any other brain problem and diagnosed her as having classic migraine with the typical aura.

"Aura? What do you mean by that?" asked Maureen.

"Remember that you were complaining about blurred vision and vague images? Those are what we call auras or 'signals' noted at the onset of a migraine attack. Your headaches start moments after you experience these signals," explained the good doctor.

Auras

Approximately 10 percent of people with migraine suffer from classic migraine. Other auras and accompanying symptoms that people like Maureen experience include:

Visual auras—may appear as flashing lights, zigzag lines and blurred or lost vision.

Numbness—a loss of sensation in one or more parts of the body.

Hallucination—imaginary perceptions not caused by anything external. Sight or sound hallucinations are most common.

Loss of speech—though unusual, temporary loss of speech may occur during migraine.

The remaining 90 percent migraine sufferers have common migraine. Migraine without aura may last up to 72 hours, is most often one-sided, and is frequently associated with nausea and vomiting.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Not hypochondriacs

Maureen was seriously concerned about how to deal with her migraine problem because it already affected her work and her family life. There were countless times when Maureen would cancel her appointments with clients because of her migraine attacks. Her boss, though considerate, seemed to be getting tired of her excuses and might have started to believe the intrigues spread by some of Maureen's officemates that she was just faking her headaches.

This is the usual bane of many migraine sufferers. They are frequently labeled as hypochondriacs or truants because in migraine the symptoms are severe but are usually not accompanied by objective or apparent physical evidences. The distressed expressions in the faces of migraine sufferers are frequently dismissed as "overacting," a product of "*kaartehan*."

What some people do not understand is that having a bothersome headache for as long or even longer than 72 hours is definitely a tough act to fake. *Status migrainosus* is the term for migraines that last this long. Maureen experiences this occasionally. The pain is so intense that even if she has already taken every pain medication there is, the pain is still there, as intense and painful as ever.

Indigestion is an accompanying problem and consequently, appetite is depressed if not completely lost especially if with concomitant vomiting.

Effect on the family

Maureen occasionally finds herself in such a thick fog of pain and misery that it is hard for her to make sensible decisions about what to do next.

These migraine episodes have deeply affected her family, too. Her children, both toddlers, don't get to go to the park during weekends because their mom needs to rest. Her migraine also made her hate her children's shrieks and laughter and the sunlight streaming through her house's bay windows in the morning—they all seemed to trigger the headaches. She prefers the house to be dark and quiet and her family needs to adjust to that. During her migraine attacks, her husband has no choice but to take over the house chores and take care of the children.

"So doctor, what do you recommend I do?" asked Maureen.

Dr. Chua prescribed a combination of medications to prevent or reduce migraine attacks and to treat the acute pain of migraine. It was emphasized that medicines for migraine are most effective when taken immediately once the warning auras are experienced rather than when the severe headache is already felt.

Recognizing triggers

However, Dr. Chua emphasized, the most important thing she could do to avoid migraine would be to recognize the usual things that trigger the onset of an attack. Some of the most common migraine triggers are stress, bright flashy lights, loud noises, watching television, sunlight and certain foods such as cheese, chocolate, MSG (vetsin), caffeine, processed meats and alcohol.

Maureen heeded her doctor's advice. She tried to read up on migraine and the additional knowledge she gained made her feel empowered and confident in coping with the problem. The medicines her doctor gave her seemed to work well in preventing her migraine attacks that she can now read books and surf the Net without having headaches. She even discovered that most migraine websites she visited were designed for the convenience of people like her. Unlike most websites, these are usually plain, with no fancy colors or touches, just what migraine sufferers would prefer.

Maureen is not only determined to learn and conquer her disease but she also wants to make people around her understand how real and serious migraine is as a disease. Maureen shared the knowledge that she gained about migraine to her officemates and superiors. Gradually, they learned to accept that migraine was not just a lame excuse for skipping work. They realized, too, how fortunate they were not to have this problem. Whenever they see Maureen with that pained expression in her face, squeezing her temples with her fingers, they try to empathize with her and show their concern which is a big morale booster for Maureen. The migraine attacks still come from time to time, but they are now a lot milder and shorter in duration.

Diary and chart

As per her doctor's instruction, Maureen also tries to keep a diary and chart when her migraines strike, what her triggers are, and the accompanying symptoms. Although these were her weaknesses since childhood, she now tries to avoid cheese and chocolate because she discovered that they could trigger those splitting headaches. She also tries to schedule her activities and manage her time efficiently to avoid stress and pressure. Furthermore, she avoids excessive use of over-the-counter headache medications other than the ones prescribed by Dr. Chua.

Maureen's determination to understand and cope with her migraine has gained the understanding and acceptance not only of her co-workers but, most importantly, her family. Where before her migraine literally controlled her, now she has full control of her ailment. This enables her to fulfill and enjoy her responsibilities as a mom. Nowadays, she appreciates her children's shrieks and laughter and she laughs, sings and plays with them. Her children now understand that when mommy has a headache, all she needs is rest and she'll soon be fine.

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some information was changed to hide the patient's identity. Aside from medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president and current chair of the Specialty Board of Adult Cardiology of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail at: raffymd@i-manila.com.)

ASK THE DENTIST
PAUL R. DE CASTRO, DMD

Connected crowns

MY new crowns look so much better than my natural teeth but I noticed that I could not floss them because they were connected to each other. When I asked my dentist, she said that I did not have to floss them anymore because they were connected. My gums bleed all the time and I am worried. Is there something I can do?

Patrick N.

You can initially try your best to keep your teeth clean by brushing and flossing and using a floss threader that guides the floss through the connected areas. You can even use an irrigator but in the end you will eventually need new crowns that are not connected to each other.

Some dentists make the mistake of connecting crowns when they do not need to. Crowns are only connected to each other if there is a missing tooth being replaced. Otherwise, connecting them just makes them harder to clean. They should have been crowned individually so you could treat them like your natural teeth. Maintenance is the key to healthy teeth and gums. New crowns would mean another expense but it will pay off in the end.

***

(Your questions are welcome at dentalqs@yahoo.com. The author is a general and cosmetic dentist licensed here and in the United States.)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Breast milk shields mother, child from cancer, says study

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

THE CANCER cells are committing suicide," Catharina Svanborg, a physician immunologist for Lund University, told her student Anders Hakansson as she sat down and peered at the microscope.

Human breast milk had been mixed into the cancer sample, and the two witnessed apoptosis taking place. Apoptosis is a term for programmed cell death.

It was in 1992 when graduate student Hakansson reported to professor Svanborg his accidental discovery at the Lund University in Sweden: A protein of human milk had been inducing apoptosis in tumor cells but not in healthy mature cells.

This finding came out amid evidence of widespread pesticide contamination in breast milk and health advocates trumpeting the benefits of breastfeeding.

Svanborg had originally been studying human cancer cells to find out how the power of mother's milk could block bacteria from infecting other cells. She asked Hakansson to culture tumor cells and mix them with bacteria and breast milk and then they saw that the nucleus of the cancer cells shrunk.

The tremendous power of breast milk over cancer slowly revealed itself. Breast milk targeted all types of tumor cells, leaving noncancer cells untouched.

Further experiments revealed that alpha-lactalbumin, alpha-lac for short, in milk was the component responsible in inducing cancer cells to die.

Alpha-lac is the most abundant protein in mother's milk, and one of its functions is to create lactose, a form of sugar in milk. The crystal structure of alpha-lac is a metalloprotein with two calcium domains and a zinc-binding domain.

Alpha-lac has been known for more than 40 years, but nobody knew of its anticancer capabilities until this time.

The new capability of alpha-lac has been termed Hamlet or Human alpha-lactalbumin made lethal to tumors.

Now the problem of Svanborg, said the National Cancer Institute's breast cancer researcher David Salomon to Discover Magazine writer Peter Radetsky in 1999, "is running the risk of challenging the current dogma."

"It's an extremely important observation, interesting and provocative," Radetsky told Salomon,"...a lot of times you run up against a brick wall of people who have tunnel vision."

Funding for Svanborg's work has been hampered by skepticism from American scientists who dominate cancer research, reported the Breast Cancer Action in its March-April 2000 newsletter. Svanborg's lab has been described as a modest cancer research facility located in a foreign country.

Nevertheless, Svanborg's first research paper on this subject, published in 1995, led to a $200,000 grant from the American Cancer Society. It was the ACS's only foreign grant at the time. Svanborg and Hakansson are now collaborating with researchers from Stockholm's Karolinska Institute and Oxford University in England.

Breastfeeding has also been known to lower the risk of breast and ovarian cancer in mothers who nurse their babies. Research about this, however, has not been conclusive. About half of the major controlled studies done thus far have found a significant reduction in breast cancer risk among premenopausal women who breastfeed.

A baby that has been breastfed is 10 times less likely to develop childhood cancers such as Hodgskin's Disease compared to bottlefed infants. Breast Cancer Action cited that breastfed babies show greater immunity to a variety of communicable diseases and enhanced cognitive development.

Molecular biologist sees potential of carabao milk against tumors

INSPIRED by discussions with Lund University's Catharina Svanborg and Dr. Anders Hakansson who discovered that a protein in human milk induced apoptosis in tumor cells, Filipino molecular biologist Custer C. Deocaris is now examining the antitumor potential of dairy products from carabao.

According to the 1998 Philippine Cancer facts and estimates, about 71,526 new cancer cases were predicted to occur in the Philippines—33,898 in males and 37,628 in females.

Deocaris' study called "antitumor potential of a milk protein" drew the following objectives:

- To isolate, purify and compare yields of protein a-lactalbumin from raw (buffalo, cow and human) and processed (evaporated milk, condensed milk, pasteurized, ready to drink, all purpose cream, powdered milk, fermented milk and cultured milk.
- To characterize differential "cytotoxicities (normal vs cancerous cell) of animal sourced a-lactalbumin, BAL (Buffalo) using what he calls "SkBR3 breast carcinoma," "A549 lung adenocarcinoma" and "normal AA8 Chinese Hamster Ovarian Cell."
- To show the molecular mechanisms of tumor toxicity or indicated the mode of cell death, either by apoptosis or necrosis in tumor cell lines.
- To describe possible research and development applications and ramification of the findings.

The future of dairy industry, added Deocaris, lies in how "to humanize animal's milk" and transform it as close as possible to human breast milk.

Deocaris ultimately hopes to transform carabao milk into a form that could also induce cancer cells to "commit suicide."

The molecular biologist who tinkers in a cancer research and radiation biology lab in the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, advised that industrial procedures in milk processing should be carefully dissected, analyzed and redesigned to allow for the mass production of milk-based products with antitumor properties.

The local study also found out that among all samples, milk sourced from the Philippine swamp-type water buffalo (carabao) displayed the most promise "as a rich reservoir of extractable a-lactalbumin (BAL) compared to that of humans (Hamlet) and dairy cows (CAL)."

Deocaris said his group's data is the first report that animal milk possesses a selective and powerful antitumor property amenable for biotechnology applications in health and medicine.

"This research fact should be used by the Philippine Carabao Center in promoting the productivity of our local water buffalos and the marketability of carabao milk, both locally and internationally," he stressed.

The carabao population in the country, meanwhile, has been dwindling since the 1980s. The PCC even predicts that if the population continues at a decreasing rate, the native carabao will be extinct in the next decade. Deocaris attributes this to the declining use of the carabao as a beast of burden, the lack of demand for carabao milk and the high incidence of buffalo diseases.

Tessa R. Salazar

Christmas puzzle solutions

(Last of two parts)

LAST week we looked at the solutions to two of our Christmas puzzles (Dec. 22, 2001).

The following Counterfeit Coin puzzle comes from a colleague in Singapore.

Petra goes to Mang Kiko's sari-sari store to buy a pack of Chocnut for five pesos. She gives Mang Kiko a 10-peso bill and Mang Kiko gives her five one-peso coins for her change, without realizing that one of them is counterfeit. Petra (who is a smart girl) hurries back home and takes a balance to identify the counterfeit coin. How would she identify it?

What is the minimum number of times she has to use the balance to identify the fake coin?

What is the minimum number of times she has to use the balance to determine whether the counterfeit is heavier or lighter than the genuine one?

If Petra claims that she can identify the fake coin and determine whether it is heavier or lighter than the genuine in no more than three weighings, would you believe her? Why or why not?

Note that there are three questions here, which means three answers are needed (even if they are all related). Eugene Tan [ettan@pacific.net.ph] has this clever explanation:

How would Petra identify the counterfeit coin? She would take turns weighing the coins. The counterfeit coin, being made of a different material, should have a different weight, while the real coins would be equal in weight. We discount the trivial case when the counterfeit coin weighs the same as the real ones, because then the balance would be useless.

What is the minimum number of times she has to use the balance to identify the fake coin? You did not include in the question the restriction that after using the balance for the minimum number of times, she has to be assured of being able to identify the fake coin. So if she's lucky, she can identify the fake coin in just one weighing: by weighing two coins on each side of the balance. With luck, the balance says the two piles of coins are equal in weight. Therefore, the fifth coin is fake.

What is the minimum number of times she has to use the balance to determine whether the counterfeit is heavier or lighter than the genuine ones? She needs to do two weighings. The first weighing uses 2 coins on one side and 2 coins on the other side of the balance.

CASE 1: The four coins all weigh the same. Then the counterfeit is the 5th coin. At the next weighing she uses 1 real coin on one side and the counterfeit on the other.

CASE 2: One side is heavier. The counterfeit is in one or the other side. She takes the two coins from the heavier side and weighs them, one on each side. If they weigh the same, then the counterfeit coin came from the lighter side and is therefore lighter than the real coins. If they do not weigh the same, then the counterfeit coin came from the heavier side and is therefore heavier than the real coins. (She can decide to take the coins from the lighter side instead of the heavier side if she wishes.)

Can Petra identify the fake coin and determine whether it is heavier or lighter in no more than three weighings? Why

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

or why not? Yes, she can.

Here's the procedure: Weigh two coins on one side and two coins on the other (first weighing). If they weigh the same then it is CASE 1 of the previous question and only two weighings are necessary.

If one side is heavier (this is similar to CASE 2 of the previous question): Take two coins from the heavier side and weigh them, one on each side (second weighing). If they weigh the same, then the counterfeit coin is lighter and came from the lighter side: Take one coin from the lighter side and one coin from the heavier side (real). Weigh them one on each side (third weighing). If they are equal, then the counterfeit coin is the other coin on the lighter side. If they are not equal, then the lighter coin is the counterfeit coin. If they do not weigh the same, then the counterfeit coin is heavier and came from the heavier side: Take one coin from the heavier side and one coin from the lighter side (real). Weigh them one on each side (third weighing). If they are equal, then the counterfeit coin is the other coin on the heavier side. If they are not equal, then the heavier coin is the counterfeit coin. She can, of course, decide to take two coins from the lighter side instead of the heavier side, and apply the same principle.

As stated last December, I will give a prize to the FIRST reader to come up with ALL correct solutions. This year's winner is Arnel Amparo [ajamparo@yahoo.com] of QA/QC Department, Victorias Milling Co. Inc., Victorias City, Negros Occidental.

I would like to congratulate the following readers, who were the first 20 to send their solutions. (A perfect score is 3, and their names are listed in order of receipt of solutions.)

3 points: Arnel Amparo [ajamparo@yahoo.com].

2 1/2 points: Ramon D. Marfil [ridm@edsamail.com.ph], Jeffrey S. Wee [jwee@smg. sanmiguel.com.ph], Gideon Adiel Butalid [craigthepretender@yahoo.com], Steven So [stebeter @sfi.com.ph], Albert So [so.ac@pg.com], Lucy Sia [lucysia@edsamail.com.ph], Dan Andrew Magcuyao [andrew@ edsamail.com.ph].

2 points: Enrico D. Obias [eobias @mydestiny.net], Paul K. Chua Jr. [paulchua2@edsamail.com.ph].

1 1/2 points: Ramon Morales [monsmorales@yahoo.com], Ricardo C. Estipona Jr. [onslaught8@edsamail.com.ph], Joseph Lopez [639173003271.gsm@sms.globe.com.ph], Elijah Joshua Sicam Alonzo [thursiaz@eudoramail.com], Allendy Tan [allendy@iloilo.net].

1 point: Eugene Tan [ettan@pacific.net.ph], mja [wiljane@pacific.net.ph].

1/2 point: Sancho V. Ramos [charmina_14@hotmail.com], Mario de los Reyes [mdreyes@inquirer.com.ph], Simeon Pablo [simspablo36@ hotmail.com].

A treat for stargazers

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

THE SOLAR system's two largest planets will reign in the night sky for most of the year. Jupiter and Saturn will brightly shine in the sky providing stargazers a better view of these two celestial bodies.

Jupiter will be in opposition to, or directly opposite, the sun as seen from the Earth while Saturn will also be positioned for optimal viewing with its ring system tilting toward our line of sight. In these positions, the two planets will be brightly illuminated upstaging other stars. Only the moon will be shining brighter.

When the sun sets, Jupiter and Saturn will rise in the northeast and will slowly climb in the sky until they reach their highest point at midnight. According to James Kevin Ty, president of the Philippine Astronomical Society, Jupiter, with a magnitude of -2.7, will be across the constellation Gemini while Saturn, with a magnitude of -0.3, will be across the constellation Taurus.

Jupiter will be blazing in the east in the evening, high in the south in the middle of the night, and in the west before dawn.

Saturn, the second largest planet in the solar system known more for its extensive and complex ring system, will shine high in the east far from Jupiter's upper right for much of the evening.

"So you don't mistake Saturn for another bright star, the planet appears pale yellow directly above constellation Taurus' brightest star, Aldebaran. The first-magnitude star Aldebaran is more orange in color," Ty said.

Right now observers with even simple telescopes may distinguish dark gaps between the bands in Saturn's rings. The largest of these mysterious gaps, known as the Cassini Division, was first observed by Giovanni Domenico Cassini in the 17th century.

By early morning of Jan. 25, the PAS will be setting up their instruments at the Manila Observatory to witness an occultation event in which the planet Saturn will move behind the moon.

"The event will start when Saturn disappears behind the dark limb of the moon at 12:49 a.m. and will reappear at the bright limb of the moon at around 1:44 a.m.," Ty said.

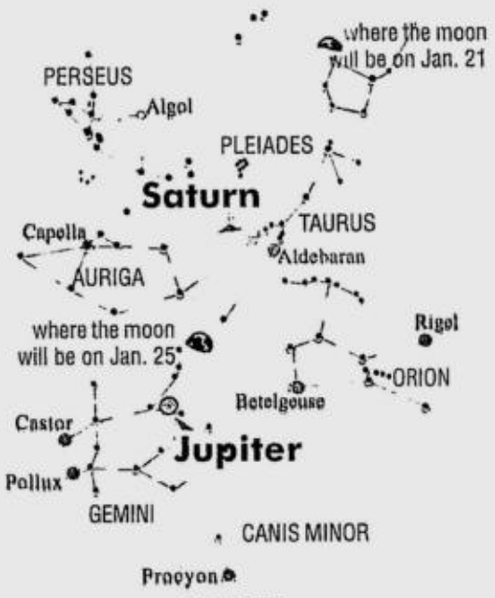
Point of interest

Jupiter takes center stage for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) scientists. Nasa's Galileo spacecraft has been in Jupiter's orbit since December 1995, scanning the planet and its major moons in more detail than any previous spacecraft had. The spacecraft, launched in Oct. 18, 1989, was named in honor of the first modern astronomer, Galileo Galilei, who observed the heavens using a telescope in 1610.

The recent images sent by the Galileo added evidence to the theory that Callisto, the outermost of Jupiter's four large moons, may hold an underground ocean. The spacecraft also provided an insight into what happens above Io's surface, on its colorful volcanoes and inside its hot belly.

The Galileo mission hopes to find clues that may help understand how the Sun and planets formed more than four-and-a-half billion years ago, according to Nasa. The spacecraft is also monitoring Jupiter's moons, one of them has active volcanoes while others have strange icy terrain that are suspected to harbor an ocean and probably, extraterrestrial life.

In July 2004, another spacecraft will arrive in the vicinity of Saturn to orbit the ringed planet and study its system over a four-year period. Launched on Oct. 15, 1997, the Cassini spacecraft carries a scientific probe called Huygens that will descend on the surface of Saturn's largest and most interesting moon, Titan, which is shrouded by an opaque atmosphere. Titan's atmosphere includes organic compounds leading scientists to believe that the moon may hold a frozen vault of conditions similar to those on Earth before life began.



LOOKING eastward, begin gazing upward towards the sky's zenith to find these familiar constellations and the two planets.

GRAPHIC: CHARLES E. BUBAN

National eye center up soon

THE COUNTRY will soon have an eye center that will focus on sight preservation and enhancing doctors' capability to carry out specialized total eye care.

The University of the Philippines, AECI and the Filipinas Eye Center Foundation Inc. recently signed a memorandum of agreement creating the Jose Rizal National Eye Referral Center at the PGH compound in Manila. The Center will be equipped with infrastructure and technology required for the proper medical and surgical care of patients. It will run a program for ophthalmology training not only to improve the quality of education in this field but also to increase the number and ensure the distribution of eye specialists in various regions of the country.

The Center will be established through the assistance of the government of Spain and the Philippines.

To ensure autonomy in decision-making relative to the management of the Center and to promote future self-sufficiency, the Filipinas Eye Center Foundation Inc. was created. Its board is composed of representatives from the University of the Philippines, PGH, College of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology, Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines, Department of Health, Technical Cooperation Office of the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines. The time frame for the establishment of the Center is five years and the total cost is 1,082 million pesetas (P300 million).

There is currently a high prevalence of blindness in the Philippines, with a majority of cases being reversible or curable because 77 percent of these are caused by cataracts.

Wastewater treatment seminar set Jan. 31

THE WATER Environment Association of the Philippines (Weap), a member association of the Water Environment Federation, will conduct a one-day technical seminar on "Wastewater Treatment and Updates on Environmental Regulation and Legislation" on Jan. 31.

The United States-Asia Environmental Partnership is supporting the seminar, which will be held at the Robinsons Galleria Suites, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig, Metro Manila.

Local and foreign experts will speak on various physical, chemical and biological wastewater treatment processes. They will give updates on applicable rules and regulations of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

For more details, interested parties may contact Lea Ramos of the Weap staff at fax 410-1119 or 371-9790.

Helping your child grow up exceptional

HAVING an exceptional kid is something that every parent wants. Moms and dads take great pride in knowing that their kid is remarkable in every sense, healthy and intelligent. After all, how a child grows up is reflective of a parent's unfaltering love, affection and care for their child.

This is why most parents take an active interest in their child's development, like making sure that they get proper nutrition. Moms and dads should be able to give their child all the right foods to help them in their growing years, while also being on the lookout for nutritional supplements that will help ensure the children reach their full potential.

One breakthrough ingredient known to be important for brain development is DHA or Docosahexaenoic Acid. DHA is a fatty acid naturally found in breast milk. It forms part of new cell membranes, which are needed as brain cells grow and make new connections with one another. Experts now believe that this process is extremely important to how efficiently the brain transfers and processes information.

A particular line of nutritional supplements that provide the DHA brain-building advantage is the Mead Johnson range of milk products from birth until preschool years.

Mead Johnson's line of milk formulas is designed to provide proper nutrition at every stage plus DHA to provide continued support for optimum brain development. Mead Johnson offers a complete line of DHA fortified milk products across all the stages of a child's growth from birth until toddler years with Enfagrow and all the way up to preschool age with Enfakid.

With parent's love, nurturing and an excellent nutritional foundation, the child will be well equipped for a tougher, more challenging future.

SaturdaySPECIAL
NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Hollywood goes to war–well, sort of

ERIC Bana, Josh Hartnett, Jason Isaacs in "Black Hawk Down." The film's release date has been pushed forward.

BY ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN

LOS Angeles—Hollywood has gone to war! Well, sort of . . . maybe—and, anyway, we might not find out who won for a couple of years.

Since Sept. 11, Hollywood has been hyperactively proclaiming its loyalty, holding meetings with the White House, sending its stars to entertain the troops and advancing the release date of every patriotic war movie it has.

If a film is about to be released, you can be assured there's a producer lurking in a dark corner of a theater intoning this mantra to reporters and critics: "This film is perfect for the times, perfect for the times, perfect for the times."

Golden years

But for those who remember the golden years when Hollywood really went to war—World War Two—the question is whether the "war against terrorism" is going to produce a Rick's Café "Casablanca") or a mere Burger King franchise ("Rambo" movies).

The hijacked airliners that slammed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon seemed to fly straight out of a Hollywood movie, bearing an uncanny resemblance to the violent fare that the world's greatest filmmaking machine has been serving up for decades in movies like "Die Hard" and "Armageddon."

This led to a brief bout of soul-searching followed by a lot of speculation on just how Sept. 11 will change moviemaking, and the consensus among critics and filmmakers at the moment is: Not much in the short term and not much in the long term, either.

Scary

Said one former studio president, who asked to remain anonymous, "It's as though Hollywood has forgotten that Sept. 11 ever happened. Things are so back to normal in this town, it's almost scary . . . What really can Hollywood do? Produce war films? We're already doing that!"

But most experts agree that Hollywood will not be blowing up landmarks in films for a long time to come. "The explosions will be a lot more generic in future," said Time magazine film critic Richard Schickel.

And the critics also think that Hollywood's future violence will be more measured. "I can hear producers saying the violence in their film is organic—natural, part of the plot, fitting naturally into the environment, not gratuitous. Hollywood loves the word 'organic,'" said one film journalist who asked not to be identified.

They don't see Hollywood rushing out to make villains of Arabs and any bad ones in future films will be cast as Osama bin Laden extremist types, not ordinary folk.

Television has a shorter lead time and already has new programs in the works that celebrate hero pilots

There has also been some caution exercised in what is being made.

Sony delayed starting shooting of a new Jennifer Lopez film about a man who blows up shopping centers. When Daily Variety called the film "terrorist-themed," a studio executive complained that the man was not a terrorist but only "a mad bomber."

Civilian saints

Another studio dropped entirely a planned film about a fire department on the take because firemen since Sept. 11 have assumed the mantle of civilian saints.

Mark Harris, assistant managing editor of Entertainment Weekly, said it could take a year or longer for Hollywood to come to grips with Sept.11 in terms of film content—but designing marketing to meet the national mood is already taking place.

"You won't see a change in the content of movies for a full year or more because Hollywood generally operates on an 18-month lead time, so it may be two years before we see a film with a post- Sept. 11 sensibility," Harris said.

"But 'Behind Enemy Lines' and 'Black Hawk Down,' both movies that were already completed before Sept. 11, had their release dates pushed forward and there has been an attempt to sell the movies as expressions of patriotism," he added.

He said that he has not heard of a single studio that has as yet "greenlighted" (Hollywood for giving the go-ahead) a Sept. 11-related project. "I think studios are very hesitant to do so because we don't know yet how the war in Afghanistan is going to turn out. Hollywood is good at a lot of things but staying on top of the news is not one of them."

No changes

Producer Irwin Winkler, whose new film "The Shipping News" is opening this month, said he also has discerned no changes in filmmaking so far.

"Most of the films for 2002were already started before Sept. 11. You might see something in 2003 but people generally like to see the same things year in, year out."

Television has a shorter lead time and already has new programs in the works that celebrate hero pilots and is busy trying to figure out how to give the public what it wants post Sept. 11, even if the public doesn't quite know.

"I did a meeting at one of the networks the other day and they said they wanted light comedies, family entertainment with no serious sub-plots, something that can be shot with three cameras and be served up as comfort food," said one Emmy-winning TV comedy writer. *Reuters*

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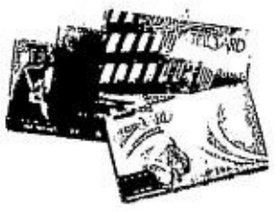

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Sharon reinvents herself again

LAST Sunday, Sharon Cuneta unveiled her new, slimmer and younger look during her birthday show on Channel 2, and she was a smash hit. Viewers couldn't get over how the formerly stout Sharon has dieted herself into the smoky, dishy diva who belted and danced the "Moulin Rouge" theme with verve and "K."

The birthday show was made even more musically choice by the performances of guests like Regine Velasquez and Lani Misalucha. But some of those plus points had to be subtracted when relative non-singers like The Hunks and Ai-Ai delas Alas did their so-so stuff. The Hunks even had a hard time singing "Happy Birthday" with the enthusiastic vocal brilliance that it deserved!

The whole show had a "Winners' Circle" theme, which was a welcome touch because it focused on success and excellence unlike other productions on TV these days that concentrate on crime, gossip, scandal and coup rumors, and thus appear to thrive on negativism.

Next Sunday, the birthday show will have its Part Two, highlighted by a "contest" between three top TV quizmasters, Edu Manzano, Christopher de Leon and Kris Aquino. Should be fun, specially since Sharon has proven *her* mettle by winning a cool million bucks on "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'American Adobo'

After the movies in the recently concluded Metro filmfest, the Filipino film people are looking forward to seeing is "American Adobo." Laurice Guillen shot the movie in the States with a Fil-Am film crew.

The film about Filipinos living in the States stars Christopher de Leon, Dina Bonnevie, Ricky Davao, Cherry Pie Picache, Sandy Andolong and Paolo Montalban, plus American actors like Keesha Sharp, Traci Ann Wolfe and Randy Becker (he was in "Love! Valour! Compassion!").

"American Adobo" benefits from the fact that one of its executive producers is Kevin Foxe, who was also the executive producer of the indie sleeper hit, "The Blair Witch Project." Foxe's contacts in Hollywood should help "American Adobo" get better booking than usual.

In addition, Outrider Pictures has agreed to distribute the movie not just in the States but all over the world (with the exception of the Philippines and Guam). Outrider has successfully distributed foreign movies like "Xiu Xiu."

With this combination of plus factors, "American Adobo" could become the first Filipino movie to enjoy "mainstream" release abroad (most end up only on TV or in a few arthouses).

Advance word from the States is very encouraging, so the film could have a good run there, and not just in Fil-Am circles. As for its showing in the Philippines, the film has gotten a "B" citation from the Film Ratings Board, which is a good endorsement and means a welcome incentive of 65 percent of amusement taxes.

CUNETA. New look.

Also, its Filipino actors are outstanding, local film buffs are curious about Paolo Montalban, and director Guillen has a strong following due to her string of critically-acclaimed and popular films, like last year's "Tanging Yaman."

Finally, there are some seven million Filipinos living abroad, and they all have relatives in the Philippines who are interested in how they're faring in other countries, specially in the States, so "American Adobo" could do well here, too.

Angelu de Leon plays second lead in new soap

BY VERON DIONISIO

DE LEON. In touch with reality.

SHE used to topbill television soaps for Viva but nowadays, Angelu de Leon does not mind if she plays villain in GMA's newest soap, "Sana'y Ikaw Na Nga." "I've always been in touch with reality. I know that times change so it's time for new ones to be given a chance," she beams.

More human

"Besides, the reason why this role excites me is that it is very real. I mean, it's not the too-good-to-be-true sort of a role. It's more human. For a while, I didn't want to act in soap operas again because I've done it so many times before, but they've offered me something that's so hard to resist."

Angelu plays Cecilia Villavicer, a feisty, vindictive woman who would do everything in her power to destroy Carlos Miguel Altamonte (played by Dingdong Dantes), to avenge her family's misfortune due to the Altamontes' rise to fame, wealth and prominence.

While graduating to villain roles would seem a demotion to many, Angelu considers this a new way to get better and more challenging roles in the future. "I have been the *api-apihan* in my past soaps and films; this time around, people will get a chance to see a different Angelu. '*Yung lumalaban, 'yung hindi lang tatahimik kahit nilulubog na sa putik*," she says.

"And besides it's a great opportunity to work again with good actors like Elizabeth Oropesa, Tito Pip (Tirso Cruz III), Chinggoy Alonso and Jacklyn Jose."

"Sana'y Ikaw Na Nga" reunites her with Bobby Andrews. People are interested in how they related to each other the first time they saw each other after the controversies that eventually broke up their love team. "We were very awkward at first. After the initial hi's, we both retreated to our own corners. Then there was silence," relates Angelu, half-smiling.

Conversation

"I was the one who broke the ice. Before we shot the first sequence, I started a conversation with him. *Kasi naman, di ba*, if we are to do a very intimate scene and we're not talking, it would be too ridiculous. And when we were able to finally start talking, it seemed like old times. We started reminiscing. And then everything turned out fine."

What about the hurt feelings? "Honestly, *wala naman talaga*. Because I know him. And if you know a person, whatever would be said or done, you would understand why," replies Angelu.

And whenever they shoot scenes together now, it seems like déjà vu. "We find it amusing sometimes that it feels like we're going back to where we were before, the same situations, the same scenes. The only difference is that we've matured a lot.

And we're more professional now, we know we're just doing a job."

No communication

For four years, there were no communication between her and Bobby. But when they started working together for "Sana'y Ikaw Na Nga," touted as the most expensive GMA soap opera ever, they were able to bridge the gap.

"Sana'y Ikaw Na Nga" airs Monday to Friday at 7 p.m. on GMA-7.

Top girl groups compared

BY NOELANI TORRE

(Conclusion)

FOUR more music buffs choose their favorite girl groups: "TLC's been in the business a longer time, but Destiny's Child's 'Independent Women,' 'Survivor,' and "Bootylicious' grabbed me. They're more upbeat compared to TLC's 'Unpretty,' 'Scrub' and 'Waterfall.'

Both groups encourage equality between the sexes, the importance of being strong, etc. But Destiny's Child's music is much more appealing. They sound juicier somehow, more delicious.

"I just don't know if they're going to stay longer together than TLC because I heard that they're cooling off. While they're here though, let's enjoy their music. They're the best!"—***Elaine Querijero, Mandaluyong***

Spice Girls

"Spice Girls *pa rin ako. Sila naman ang unang-una, di ba? Kumbaga*, they're *the* girl group. *May ibat-ibang* character *kasi sila kaya nakakaaliw. Hindi sila mabilis pagsawaan kasi may kanya-kanya silang* attitude.

"Fun *ang dating ng mga kanta nila*, for enjoyment *talaga. Hindi sila sobrang magaling kumanta pero hindi naman pangit ang mga boses nila. Hindi sasakit ang tainga mo kung pakikinggan mo sila.*

"*Napaka* colorful *nila—mula sa* costumes *hanggang sa pananalita. At itinaguyod din nila ang* girl power *kaya hindi mo masasabing mababaw sila.*"—***Mary Grace Pineda, Parañaque***

Cool beat

"I like the style of SWV (Sisters With Voices) but TLC is my favorite and I really think they're the best. You could say that I grew up listening to 'T-boz,' 'Left-Eye' and 'Chili's cool beat.

"They don't just sing, they also rap! So what more can you ask for? Especially as they're also sexy, good-looking and fabulous dancers."—***Annah Karina Polina, Surigao del Sur***

Easier on the ear

"Destiny's Child, though TLC is also pretty good. I prefer listening to Destiny's Child because they're easier on the ear—I'm not saying TLC's not!

"I like their song 'Survivor' because it's not just directed to you women. Guys can empathize with it, especially me since I just broke up with my girlfriend. Ha!

"Anyway, they're beautiful, they sing beautifully and they dance beautifully. I'm not really a fan but they have a stand-out sound so I really like them."—***Louie Evangelista, Iloilo City***

Tony Gloria, film producer

BY BEHN CERVANTES

THE NEW film producer making waves in the local movie industry these days is Tony Gloria. It is because of the ambitious intentions of "American Adobo." Who is Tony Gloria? More popular is the film's director, Laurice Guillen. Her 2001 film "Tanging Yaman" romped away with the major trophies in most film competitions last year.

International market

"American Adobo" is touted as the contemporary Philippine film that will again test the waters of the international market to see if our films can make the necessary inroads in that lucrative market. Our market has become too limited, given the rising cost of production as well as the ambitions of our local film artists.

To be sure, there were Philippine films that met with critical acclaim in film festivals in the past. However, these films were made for the Philippine market and only after they were met with acclaim were they bought for limited international distribution.

"Genghis Khan" started the trend in the very early '50s. The Manuel Conde spectacular surprised Venice film festival viewers with its scope and enviable success despite its limited budget. It was, in fact bought by a French distributor, and favorably reviewed in Time Magazine.

National Artist Lamberto V. Avellana's two great works "Anak Dalita" and "Badjao" met success in Asia. Lino Brocka's films in Cannes in the mid-80s once again brought attention to contemporary Philippine cinema, although for years now Cirio Santiago has co-produced US films with Hollywood money.

Difference

There was a difference, however. Those films were not Filipino in theme or substance. They just happened to have been shot in the Philippines, sometimes with our lush jungles taking the place of Vietnam, Thailand or other Southeast Asian countries.

However, the dream of many Philippine directors and screenwriters is to produce films primarily for the international market with creations are truly Filipino in substance. Thus, Tony Gloria has conceived of "American Adobo," a film about Filipinos transplanted in the United States desiring acceptance from family and friends while searching for love and happiness. In effect, the Filipino characters are essentially no different from any other set of people anywhere else in the globe.

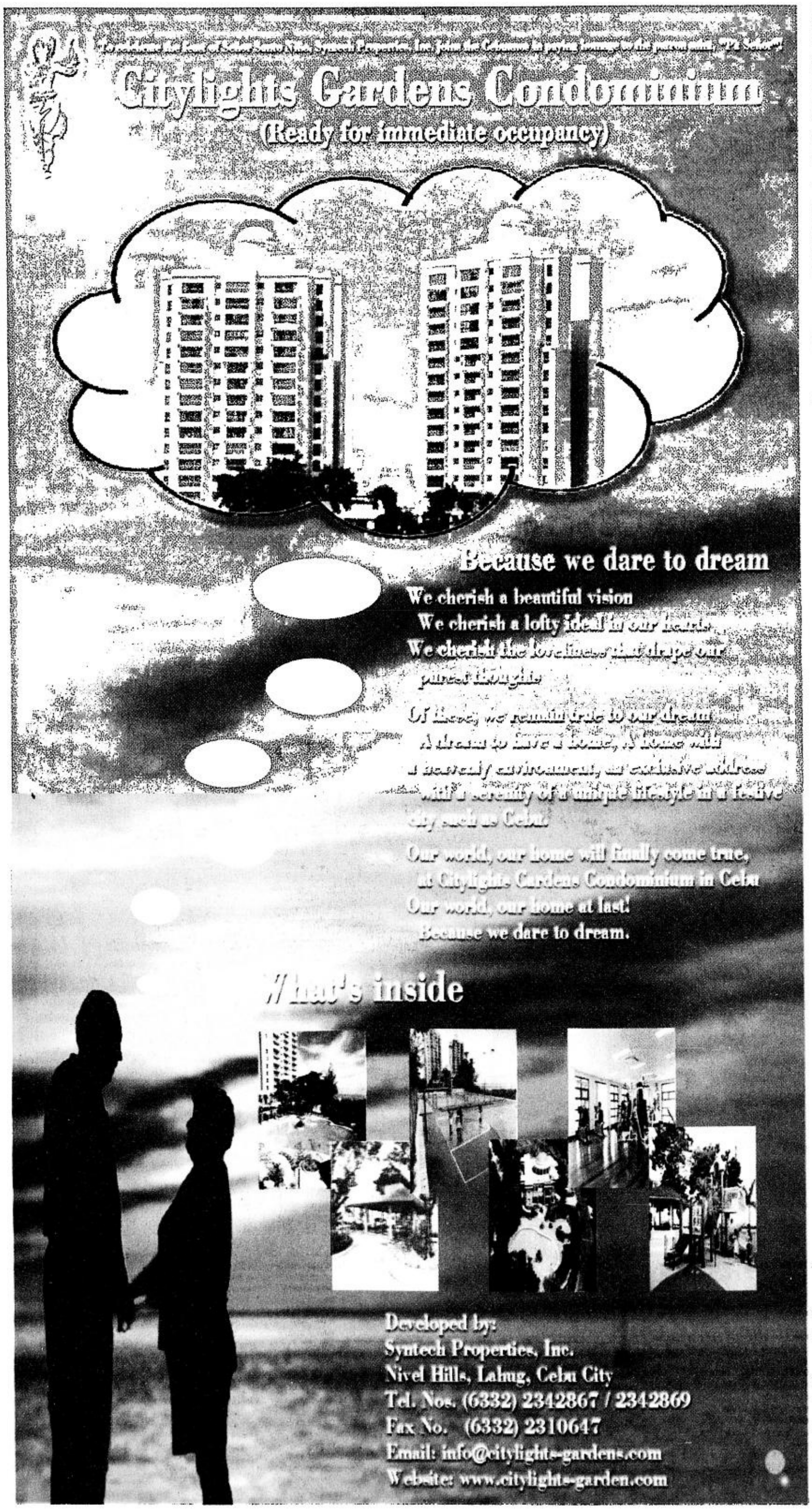
While the film wisely and colorfully uses Tagalog and Philippine cultural attitudes in the script, the characters' basic drives are universal and thus recognizable to anyone with similar needs and wants.

To ensure that their films are internationally competitive, they have to be technically up to par with global demands. This is the intent of Philippine producers with their eyes on the large but very competitive international market. Enter Tony Gloria, an erstwhile advertising executive before he produced films in the mid-'80s that were met with box-office success. They were mostly comedies. Nevertheless, he learned audience needs and demands.

Experience

He now capitalizes on that experience as well as his advertising know-how to meet the challenges of the international film world with a film shot mostly in New York. Recognizing the value of good scripts, Gloria has also bought works of younger writers for possible production in the future.

The title "American Adobo" says it all. Obviously, *adobo* is a Filipino dish that has counterparts in many Hispanic countries, thus giving that film wider recognition. The fact that the *adobo* is described as American enlarges its scope further. You can only surmise that there was good thinking when this film was planned and finally produced. ***(To be concluded)***



AM/FM

Propriety and taste needed in listener-friendly shows

BY RITO P. ASILO

(Conclusion)

WE checked out some AM shows in the afternoon of Jan. 1 and settled for dwAN's "Relax Lang, Sagot Kita" (1206 kHz, 4-5 pm) and dzRM's "Radyo Magazine Balita" (1278 kHz, 4-5 pm).

The former, hosted by Dante Carpio (while regular host Joey Collantes was on vacation), discussed the reduction of the number of free text messages for subscribers of both Globe and Smart. NTC Commissioner Eliseo Rio revealed that representatives of both firms didn't show up at public hearings meant to discuss this issue with a group called "Text Power," that opposes the supposed reduction. This is bad news for text addicts who have added 'texting' to their basic daily necessities.

Grandstanding

Carpio also mentioned Sen. Juan Flavier's biting sarcasm about some usually somnolent senators who are now starting to create some noise in the Senate's session halls to start "positioning" themselves for the 2004 elections. Obviously, it is in grandstanding and rhetoric that some of them excel, more than in law-making.

He also shared an advisory on how to plan a business for the New Year. Some tips: know your target clientele; be aware of the capital needed for the venture; be unique, think up ways that would make your business different from others; experiment with service and marketing strategies; be realistic; persevere, and prioritize your customers all the time!

Potpourri

On the other hand dzRM's news features were a potpourri of information that ranged from politics (the Comelec revealed that the government has not set aside a budget for the Sangguniang Kabataan elections in May. They suggested holding it with the barangay elections to save money), trade, commerce and industry (the new Rent Control Law seeks to decrease the blatant annual increase in rent from 10 percent to 8 percent for the first year, and 5 percent per year for the next three years); medicine (blood cell transplant has replaced bone marrow transplant as the more effective management for leukemia with a better survival rate—66 percent and 53 percent, respectively) and the arts (the NCCA announced the annual celebration of National Arts Month in February).

If the NCCA wants to inspire and encourage participants, they should ensure affordable rates for their activities. Better yet, hold them free of charge. And more variety, please!

MTV and Penshoppe join forces for young role model search

MTV Philippines and Penshoppe have joined forces to search for five guys and five girls who best personify their generation—hip, energetic, creative, fun-loving and responsible.

Key cities

The search, presented by Cali, will be conducted in private and public schools in Metro Manila and in key cities in the country. The 10 winners will then become members of the MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council and will be their official ambassadors in schools.

They will be actively involved in socio-civic programs and youth-oriented and charitable activities during their one-year stint under the guidance of Anne Feo-Maningo, a former Club Pen member. There will also be social events and parties to attend.

Aside from being inducted into the prestigious Youth Council, the winners will also be given the opportunity to be VIP hosts at MTV events and, if they qualify, could become roving reporters for MTV. Some of them will be awarded modeling contracts by Penshoppe and will be the company's spokespersons.

The search is open to boys and girls aged 14 to 20 years old who are bone fide students in the high school and college levels or are actively pursuing studies in DECS-approved programs. They must have decent scholastic records and preferably be active in extra-curricular activities.

They should also possess the MTV and Penshoppe factor—a combination of qualities such as exuberance for life, positive outlook, leadership creativity, dynamism, concern for others and a great personality. They can either join personally or be nominated by their classmates, family members and friends.

Nominee

Interested parties may submit a fully-accomplished MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council application form, which shall be distributed in schools, or bio-data stating their name, age, address, school, year level, course (if applicable), sex, parents' names, contact number and a three-sentence paragraph stating why the applicant feels he/she or his/her nominee is qualified to be part of the council.

These forms must be accompanied by two photos (one head shot and one full body shot). Application forms can be submitted to MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council Search, P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, 1256 Makati City.

Entrants may also drop their application forms in boxes that will be set up in participating schools and in Penshoppe stores nationwide, or at the big application party/event of the MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council in cooperation with Ahead Learning Systems' "Get Ahead G-Mik at Glorietta" at the Glorietta Activity Center on Jan. 26.

Applications will be accepted until Feb. 8. Twenty finalists will be chosen in a selection party on Feb. 15. The search will culminate with the announcement of winners on Feb. 28.

For inquiries, call MTV at 848-1321 or e-mail Rod Nepomuceno at nepomuceno@mtv.asia.com or Anne Matoto at matotoa@mtv-asia.com or Charley Bautista at baustista@mtv-asia.com.

A friend named Jinggoy

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

THERE was some trepidation inside me as I wound my way to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) last week to see Jinggoy Estrada. It's been quite a while since we saw each other. Also, the last time I checked, which was early January last year when crowds were noisily clamoring for his dad's head, Jinggoy was reportedly pissed off with me because somebody whispered to him that I was hitting him on my radio show.

Wounds

I couldn't fault Jinggoy for instantly believing what the whisperer told him without calling me up personally to settle the matter. I fully understood because that was the time when the people he thought were his friends chose to beat a path away from him—and, licking his wounds, it couldn't have been hard for him to mistake me as one of them.

Of course, I did not hit Jinggoy on my radio show or anywhere else, for that matter. What I do remember saying then was that it was the perfect time for him to make a reality check of what the definition of friendship was, and a head count of his real friends. Imagine my pained consternation when I was told about the reason for Jinggoy's ill feelings towards me!

Anyway, in the spirit of the holidays, when publicist Ed de Leon invited me to the press conference of Jolo Films' "Walang Iwanan, Peksman," which topbills Jinggoy opposite Judy Ann Santos, I shelved my reservations and decided to go. It was time to renew a cherished friendship.

Swimming pool

Before the presscon began, Jinggoy accommodated the TV reporters that cold evening at the VMMS auditorium, and my mind trailed off to the past. Jinggoy has always been a dear friend. I remember the day when my swimming pool leaked, and it just wouldn't do to have a half-empty pool as my dad was entertaining some very special guests that particular evening.

Jinggoy was my lifesaver then. Two hours after I gave him a frantic call, two firetrucks came to my house. As my dad played perfect host to his friends that night, lighted candles floated on the pool, which was filled to the brim with crystal-clear water from Jinggoy.

At another time, there were some complications in my life and I needed a bodyguard. Jinggoy detailed one of his personal security personnel to me.

Then, I had a friend who was so financially challenged he couldn't afford to send himself to the hospital for proper medical care. Jinggoy sent him to the hospital which he had built for his constituents as mayor then of San Juan. My friend enjoyed a whopping 60 percent discount on his hospital bills.

ESTRADA. A movie with Judy Ann Santos.

Only a few may know this but I actually played godmother to Jinggoy's movie career. My TV outfit, Loca Productions, did "The Dodie Peñalosa Story" and I didn't want to do it if it wasn't Jinggoy who played the title role. Soon after, Viva Films signed him up to a movie contract and his first movie was "Eagle Squad."

Trailer

I was roused from my reveries when the press conference for "Walang Iwanan, Peksman" began in earnest. They first ran the trailer of the movie which showed Jinggoy hamming it up with Judy Ann and Bayani Agbayani in this comedic confection out to earn sure laughs not just from pro-Erap moviegoers.

Then, Ed asked me to throw the first question. I was curious to find out exactly how different Christmas 2001 was from Christmas 2000 for Jinggoy and his dad, considering the stark reduction of their circumstances.

He replied, "Before, there were lots of food. Now, we only had ham and cheese for *noche buena.* Before, we had lots of friends to greet us. Now, we only had family. Before, the guests flowed and stayed until the morning after. Now, after we ate, Dad and I did nothing else but watch TV." Jinggoy gave me a wry smile and tried to make light of the question but, unmistakably, there was a sad edge to his answer. (*To be concluded*)

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JAN 12 - JAN 18

CH	7	4	5	2	9	13	23	29	31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Piiya en Da Pilot 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 'F' 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Final Drive 6:30 Auto Review 7:00 Barcelona Battle of the Gold Medalists 9:00 Fox News 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Auto Focus 12:00 Fox News	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Super S 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Eazy Dancing 10:30 Saturday Night Specials	5:30 Pokemon 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Special Unit II 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Last Border* 11:00 PGMA	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX Sampler	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Kathie Lee Gifford* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story *Survivor* 9:00 In Focus *Women of Survivor* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Pinoy Exposed 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 NBA 11:00 Business & Leisure 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guylerd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night 11:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 KI 8:00 Daddy Di Do Du 9:00 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Where In Time Is Carmen San Diego 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Mortal Kombat* 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Game 1 * 6:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Belle 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Murder in Small town X 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 El True Hollywood Special *Mariah Carey* 8:00 El Special *Grammy Award Nominations 2002* 9:00 El From the Red Carpet: *Cinemanila* 10:00 FYE 11:00 60 Minutes
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 FPJ Action Cinema 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Fox News 10:30 Unlimited Diving 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Touched By An Angel 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Arliss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:00 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Plastic Surgery 2001* 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild On *Great Barrier Reef*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Oka Tokat 10:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol	4:00 PBL 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 The Extremist	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:30 Storytellers 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Joey Lawrence* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Whattamen 10:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Private Conversation	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Friends 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Philippines Most Wanted	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Level 9 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:00 Behind The Music 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:00 Prieintime Classics 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Women on the Net on E!* 8:00 Mysteries And Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Rising Sun*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Attagirl 10:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu 101	4:00 PBL 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 NBA 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shukato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Guinnes World Records 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kasangga 10:00 Sa Dako Pa Roon 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 48 Hours	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:30 MYX Concerts 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Leah Ramin* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:30 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Concert at the Park 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:00 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 Largo 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	5:30 Halo-Halo 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 Oh Grow Up! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Truth About Blondes* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Mile High City* 12:00 Talk Soup

IGNACIO. A kinder, gentler host.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

GMA premieres new game show tomorrow

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

DESPITE the glut of game shows on television, GMA feels there is still room for one more so tomorrow at 7 p.m., the network airs "K! The P 1,000,000 Videoke Challenge" with Arnell Ignacio as host. The show is counting on the popularity of videoke joints to lure viewers. Contestants need to sing their way to the top prize of P1 million at the end of the hour.

"K" starts with seven participants who must alternately sing a randomly-chosen song. Just like in a videoke lounge, the lyrics to the song are flashed on their individual screens. The catch is that some of the lyrics have been left blank and they have to supply the missing lyrics.

Each correct answer means money in the pot which could reach as high as P100,000 for each round. There are five rounds in the game so it is possible to win P500,000, an amount that could be doubled during the final round.

At the conclusion of each round, one of the contestants is voted out of the game. Unlike "The Weakest Link" where the players make that important decision, "K" has a board of judges who boot out the unlucky guy. Their decision is based on three factors: knowledge of the lyrics, timing and the ability to sing in tune, and showmanship.

We joined a group of entertainment writers who participated in a mock contest at GMA's Broadway studios. Although we actually taped an hour-long show, it will not be aired during "K's" timeslot, and only excerpts will be shown on the network's show biz programs.

Just as well, because we didn't do very well. We were miles away from the targeted P1 million grand prize. At the end of the show, the group had only earned, in the words of Edu Manzano, an embarrassing P28,000. We failed to supply the missing lyrics to some very familiar songs so we couldn't bring up our total pot.

The only time we got a lot of correct answers was when the song was the nursery rhyme "Baa Baa Black Sheep" and the "Ghost" theme song, "Unchained Melody." Otherwise, some of us fell flat on our faces on songs like Abba's "Chiquitita," Britney Spears' "Oops I Did It Again" and The Eagles' "Hotel California." In our particular case, we didn't even know the melody of some of the songs, so we improvised.

That's not to say the group didn't enjoy the experience. We had a grand time even if the judges made "insulting" remarks about our singing, as they were instructed to do.

So if you intend to join "K," you better brush up on your songs. Incidentally, the first three weeks of the show will feature celebrities. In tomorrow's show, the guests include Rosanna Roces, Dingdong Dantes, Michael V, Arnold Clavio, Butch Francisco, Joey de Leon, and Lhar Santiago. Later, prospective contestants need to call a PLDT toll number (each minute costs P10 and the call lasts about three minutes). GMA executive Wilma Galvante was not ready to give us the phone number but we're sure, it will be flashed in tomorrow's show. We commented that PLDT is getting rich from all the game shows requiring contestants to call in.

Arnell is making a comeback to the game show genre after successfully hosting "Go Bingo" sometime ago on the same channel. He is the ideal choice because he's a good singer and gets to sing the first line of each chosen song. He is sporting a new look—a bald pate with beads forming the letter "K" on his scalp.

Arnell was quite friendly with us unlike Edu who never smiles during "The Weakest Link," but was that because he did not want to antagonize members of the entertainment press?

Contestants do not need to have extensive knowledge of different fields as required in "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" or "Game KNB." All one needs is to be a videoke junkie with an extensive knowledge of different songs from old standards to nursery rhymes, to top hits.

Madonna on HBO

HBO will premiere "Madonna Live: The Drowned World Tour" on Jan. 22 at 9 p.m. This is Madonna's first concert in eight years and features songs like "Ray of Light" and "Music."

To promote the show, HBO is giving away 30 Madonna T-shirts and 30 posters to viewers who can answer the following question: On what date and on what movie channel can you watch Madonna's latest concert?

Interested viewers can send their answers to: HBO Madonna Concert Promo, P.O. Box 512, Greenhills Post Office, San Juan, Metro Manila

Winners will be notified by HBO.

'X-Men on Star Movies'

Star Movies airs the hit movie "X-Men" tomorrow at 9 p.m. To hype the event, Star is holding related activities at the fountain area of Robinsons Galleria today and tomorrow. There is an ongoing exhibit of illustrations of the comic characters, many of which were drawn by Filipino artists. There are also drawing as well as trivia contests.

Prizes such as cell phone holders and T-shirts as well as treats from Tower records and Filbar's will be given away to lucky participants

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Invitations are entitled to reserved seats.

Metro Manila filmfest reassessed

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

LIKE many past editions of the Metro Manila Film Festival, the 2001 filmfest held last December proved to be occasionally heartening, but more often disappointing—and controversial.

Heartening elements

First, the heartening elements: "Bagong Buwan" was the first Filipino film to deal head-on with the long-festering conflict in Mindanao. "Yamashita" came up with some great digitized images Japanese planes bombing Sangley Point at the start of World War Two. A Nick Joaquin play, "Tatarin" was made into a movie.

After viewing the festival entries, however, we realized that "Tatarin and "Yamashita" didn't live up to their promise. In addition, "Hubog" failed to fuse its diverse political, sensual, violent and sociological elements together into a dynamic, insightful whole.

So, all told, the 2001 festival was less quality-oriented than the 2000 filmfest. This decline in quality was matched by lower gross revenues in 2001—not really a big surprise, since people now have less money to spend for entertainment.

Top grosser

More heartening however, was the fact that the festival's unofficial best movie, "Bagong Buwan," was also the top grosser. This strongly indicates that local moviegoers are eager to patronize good films that deal with the pressing issues of the day. This is a good development to underscore because it could prompt other producers to be similarly engaged and committed in the movies they make.

The 2001 festival's relatively low level of excellence tells us that there's a need to rethink the filmfest's criteria for selecting official entries. Its combination of quality, nationalism, positive values *and* "commercial viability" clearly doesn't work, and has in fact resulted in a messy selection process—and we're not even including the "political" angle in this critique.

Original intent

How best to resolve this confused and confusing situation? Go back to the annual festival's original intent when it was launched decades ago, which was to showcase the best outputs of the Filipino film industry, *period.*

This was done to overcome local viewers' bias in favor of Hollywood movies. Our filmmakers came up with such good films that the ploy worked, and Filipino movies became popular even with the A-B crowd.

Thus, the nationalism, positive values and commercial viability criteria were tacked onto the filmfest only in subsequent years and compromised the festival's original intent. There really is no need to officially "legislate" inculcation of the nationalism and positive values, since a good film is its own cause for being, and for being seen. Besides, once you require nationalism and positive values, you render them officious and thus forced and inert.

Biggest compromise

As for "commercial viability," that's the Metro filmfest's biggest compromise, made by producers who want the festival not really to be a showcase for the industry's best output, but an opportunity to make the biggest bucks possible.

This compromising attitude is subliminally supported by the bodies that receive a percentage of the festival's income for their operating budgets. The bigger the filmfest's gross, the bigger their percentage share, so…

If the festival goes back to its original "showcase" intent, it will force the members of its screening committee to choose only really good movies for the filmfest, and its level of quality will go back to where it was in the '70s, when it wasn't unusual for the festival to screen four or five *really* outstanding films each year.

INGRID Santamaria, Tourism Sec. Dick Gordon and Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez.

Sumakwel awardees honored in Antique

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

UPON the invitation of Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez, we covered the island's recent Binirayan Festival. We took an early morning PAL flight to Iloilo City, and were fetched by a mini-van and drove two hours to San Jose de Buenavista, the capital of Antique. We stopped and viewed the Miag-ao Church, which was built during the Spanish period. We had our lunch in a quaint restaurant by the sea, feasting mostly on seafoods.

Golden Salakot

We dropped by the site of the Golden Salakot and after checking in at an inn, went to the plaza and took pictures of the statue of their beloved hero, the late Gov. Evelio Javier. That night, we attended the Binarayan Festival, the Bugal Kang Antique Awards and the Layas Kang Antique Night. A committee initiated a lifetime achievement award, the Sumakwel Award—the highest among the different categories in the Bugal Kang Antique Awards.

This award is a tribute to Datu Sumakwel, the Malayan leader of pre-Spanish Antique. Through this award, the Antiqueños give importance and recognition to the person and the leader who was Datu Sumakwel. The award encourages Antiqueños to follow the values and ideals of Datu Sumakwel—being peace-loving, having a pioneering spirit, wisdom, courage, being fair and just, and practicing good leadership.

This year, an award was given to a non-Antiqueño, a Hollander who has become an adopted son of Antique. Father Henricus Cornelius de Wit, 79, served the Antiqueños for 22 years as a pastor. From 1989 until 1996, he was Vicar for the religious community of Manila as an assistant to his Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin.

When he retired, Fr. De Wit went back to Antique and now lives in a one-room bungalow adjacent to the Mensa Domini Formation House in San Angel near St. Anthony's College.

Violations

During the Martial Law years, De Wit courageously stood by the priests and people who were unjustly oppressed by the dictatorial regime. He denounced violations of human rights by military officials.

His eminence, the Most Reverend Thomas A. Millamena, 52, was the Awardee for Community Leadership. He assumed the highest post in Iglesia Filipina Independiente as Supreme Bishop.

Daniel Enriquez Artango, 47, a painter whose forte is oil, was the Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication.

Celso V. Loriega, Jr., Awardee for Government Service, is the Assistant Regional Executive Director for operations of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Region VI.

Robert Peter D. Alojipan, Awardee for Community Leadership, founded Pagtatap Manila, an organization of Pandan residents in Manila, Hong Kong and the USA, is the head of the Makati Medical Center's Outpatient Department's Charity and Social Service.

Journalist

Reynaldo G. Elizalde, awardee for Public Service, is a practicing lawyer, customs broker and a journalist.

Aida De Puno Laggui, Awardee for Community Leadership, is an excellent organizer of cooperatives who put up the Antique Council of Women Balikatan Movement 1991 with an initial 18 members that has expanded to 520.

Julie F. Barcelona, 33, Awardee for Entrepreneurship and Technology, is based in Parañaque City and works as Researcher II/Curator of the Philippine National Herbarium (PNH), Botany Division, National Museum of the Philippines.

AIDA De Puno Laggui, right, receives her award from Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez and Rotarian Aloysius A. Javier.

'Storybook' by The Company

BY LEIA TORRE

"STORYBOOK" is the Company's 10th and most hard-won album to date. It took three false starts in the pre-production phase and the start of a new millennium to make this album happen. All that, plus a livewire original Filipino song that jolted the field of original Pilipino Music out of limbo.

Revival craze

This was during the time when the revival craze had ended and everyone was casting about for a new trend that would take its place. The song that finally set such a trend was none other than "Pagdating ng Panahon," the comeback hit of former child star Aiza Seguerra.

"Pagdating ng Panahon's" success spurred other artists to showcase their own original compositions and bolstered their confidence that their work would enjoy recognition and eventual success in the market. The Company did not hesitate to make good use of the opportunity. As soon as they had a deal with the Viva Group of Companies, they started working on "Storybook" with all the enthusiasm and dedication that they thought their three false starts had drained out of them. The result is an album composed of 12 tracks, each of which has a story to tell.

Trust

In this album, the group placed all their trust in the strength of the songs they were singing and the talent that each member possessed, and waited to see if this would be enough to make their work matter to the public.

They did away with the usual gimmicks, costumes, trendy arrangements, and packaging that accompanied their most recent albums, and went back to the way they did things on their earlier outings in the recording field.

The first track in their new album, "Minsan Isang Araw," tells us of a love found and lost. It is also a song of remembrance and reminiscing. It talks of the conception and growth of a love that did not last. The song looks back on events from the perspective of the singer's now having another person to love, and is upbeat, with a catchy rhythm and even tempo. Basically, it shows that in love, as in everything else, change is to be expected.

Longing

"Baka Ikaw" is the second number. Its story is about someone who has nearly given up on finding "the perfect one." It is a song of longing, and of realization—longing to find someone to share love with, and realizing that all the searching and waiting may have resulted in at last finding that person in the most unexpected place—close at hand. ***(To be concluded)***

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A: LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

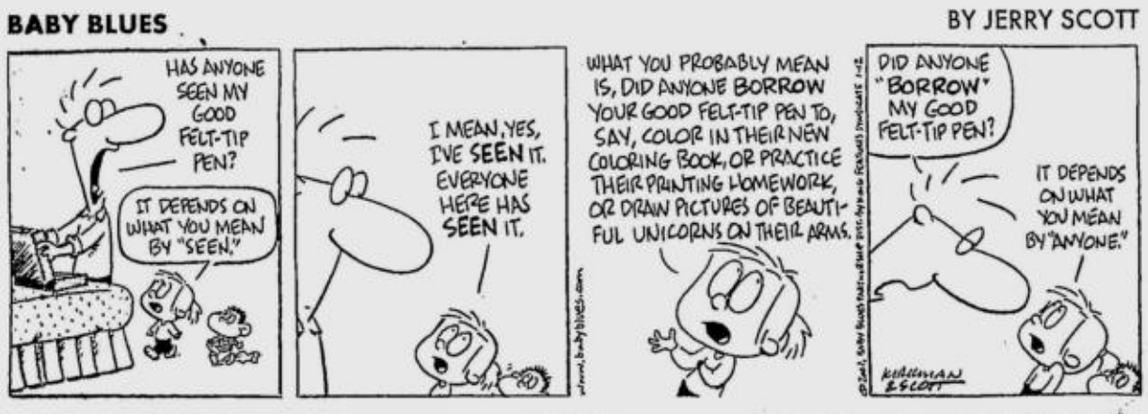
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

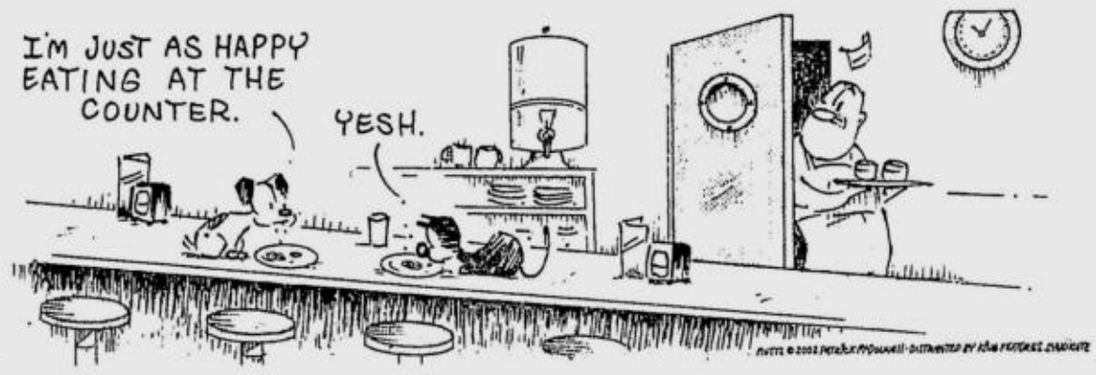
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL CUISON

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kirstie Alley, Howard Stern, Joe Frazier, Rush Limbaugh

Happy Birthday: You won't be happy unless you are involved in all sorts of different projects. The problem is you are also likely to take on too much, falling short of your goals. Why not start off by focusing on what's most important to you and accomplishing the things that really count? Your numbers are 10, 14, 25, 33, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your involvement in worthwhile groups will bring you in contact with some important individuals. If you are prepared to present some of your other projects, it is possible that you will get the support and backing you require.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Talk to people who have been involved in activities that interest you. Getting the inside scoop will help you integrate into the mainstream.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll have plenty of opportunities to make some extra cash. Your investments will pay off if you take advantage of the inside information that you are given.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you're in a relationship, this is a great day to get close with the one you love. If you are single, get out and meet new people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Go out with colleagues if you get the chance. Your outgoing, entertaining nature will allow you to build confidence among your peers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be up for social activities and likely to meet someone if you attend events that include people of all ages. Don't back away from someone because of his or her age.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't neglect your responsibilities at home today, but don't stick around if someone is picking on you. Do what you must and proceed to get out with people who can provide you with mental stimulation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have a good handle on what's going on around you. Friends and family will be eager to seek your advice. A short pleasure trip will revive you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Focus on making money. If you invest wisely you will get the returns you are looking for. You can make professional changes if you care to. Set up interviews or send out your resume today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be able to rekindle the flame with the one you are currently with, or you can start a brand new relationship should you choose. You may find yourself in the spotlight if you go out and socialize.

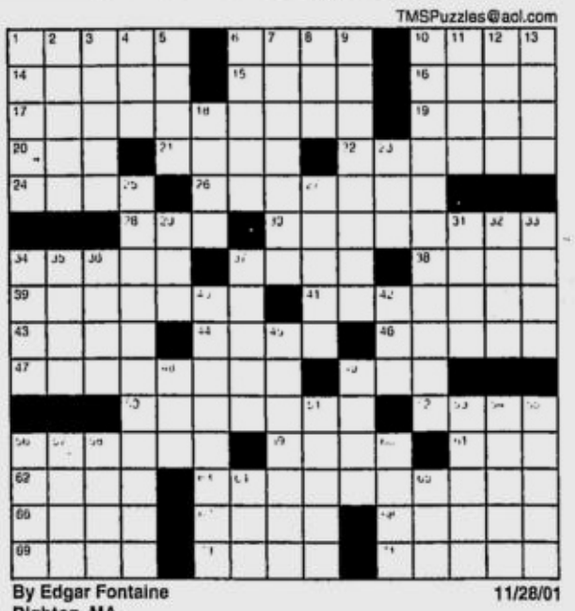
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let minor health problems take over. Relax; you owe it to yourself. Curl up with a couple of videos or a good book and call it a day.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll attract a lot of attention if you stand up for your beliefs. You have what it takes to make a difference, so take the initiative.

Birthday Baby: You have your own vision and you aren't about to follow someone else's path.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Constrict
6 Big rig
10 Skater Lipinski
14 Of hearing
15 Farm wagon
16 Verve
17 Scary, Posh, et al.
19 Glorify
20 Three-way junction
21 Upchuck
22 Without pretense
24 Ego
26 Drop sharply
28 ETO leader
30 Be fatigued
34 Barrel slat
37 __ Spumante
38 Highland hillside
39 Portended
41 Embroidery frame
43 Moran of "Happy Days"
44 Long stride
46 Piggy sounds
47 Young girl's overdress
49 Sault __ Marie, MI
50 Hide plant
52 Air pollution
56 Going out with
59 Type of return?
61 Little Jack Horner's last words
62 Jason's ship
63 Group of holes at Augusta
66 Indication
67 Actor Rip
68 Church honoree
69 Pianist Myra
70 Like pie?
71 Broadway hit

DOWN
1 Plays' players
2 Indian cash
3 Spirit in "The Tempest"
4 Brit's raincoat
5 Common man of Rome
6 Spin
7 Quantities of gossip
8 Unit of wire
9 Sleep disorder
10 Tinky-Winky, Po, et al
11 Attorney Dershowitz
12 Julia of "One from the Heart"
13 Raggedy doll
18 Gawk
23 Mumblety-__
25 Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca
27 Dull finish
29 Barbie's friend
31 Mineral supplement
32 Black Hawk War group
33 Towel word
34 Put one's foot down?
35 Amos or Spelling
36 Related (to)
37 Beautify
40 Stretch out
42 Witty remark
45 Wally Cox character
48 Devotee
49 'N __
51 Inclined to flow
53 Craze
54 Auguries
55 Belt way?
56 Waistcloth
57 Sal's canal
58 __ on (incites)
60 Pitch
64 Extinct bird
65 Hit head-on

By Edgar Fontaine Dighton, MA

11/28/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

T	W	A	S		P	S	S	T		A	I	S	L	E
R	A	R	E		A	H	O	Y		U	S	H	E	R
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T	O	R	S	O				O	A	T		T	I	P
S	P	Y		T	I	L	I	N	G		R	A	G	E
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T	E	E	N	S			E	N	D	S		O	D	D	S

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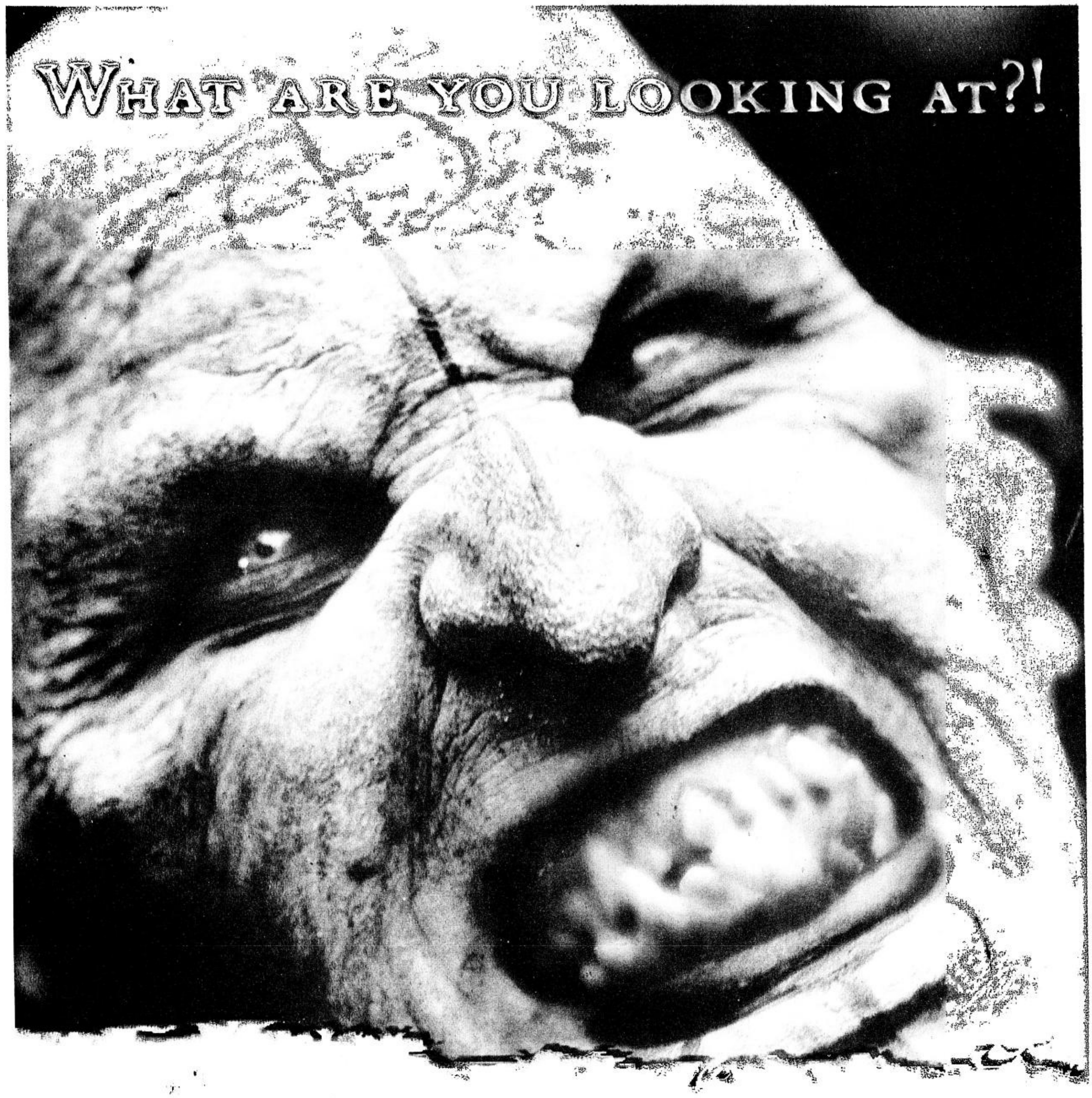

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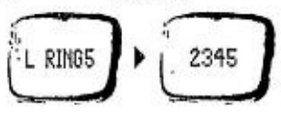

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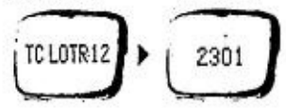

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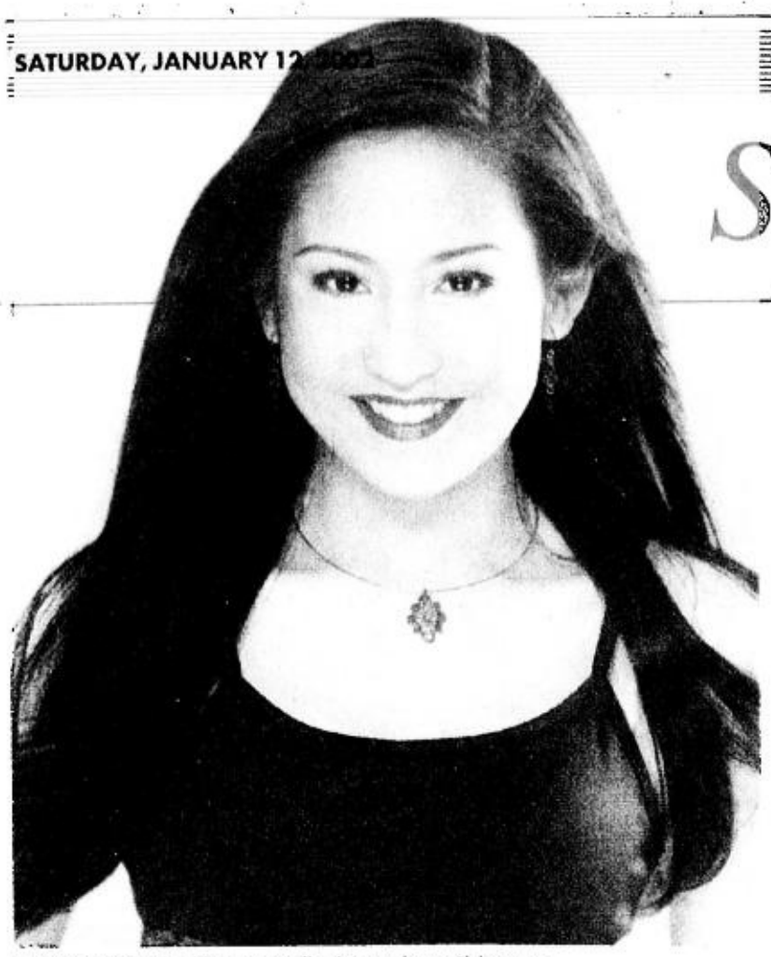


MAGDANGAL. Hopes to find true love this year.

Jolina looks for Mr. Right

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

THERE are all sorts of pressures from media and her fans for young star Jolina Magdangal to seriously find someone to fall in love with, but she's in no hurry to commit herself to one person. She says she is still young and hasn't found Mr. Right. At the same time, she realizes she must start preparing for that eventuality.

"Dapat ngayon pa lang, iniisip ko na. Unang-una, 23 na ako. Pangalawa, buong teenage life *ko, na-*sacrifice *ko* for my career. *Pinaghirapan ko iyon para mapunta ako sa* ganitong level *at makaipon ng ganito.* So *kung magpa-*puppy-puppy love *na naman ako, baka mapunta lang ako sa alanganin!"*

She hopes that 2002 will be the year for her to find true love. No, she doesn't mean to tie the knot this year, but she does wish to be in a real and mature relationship.

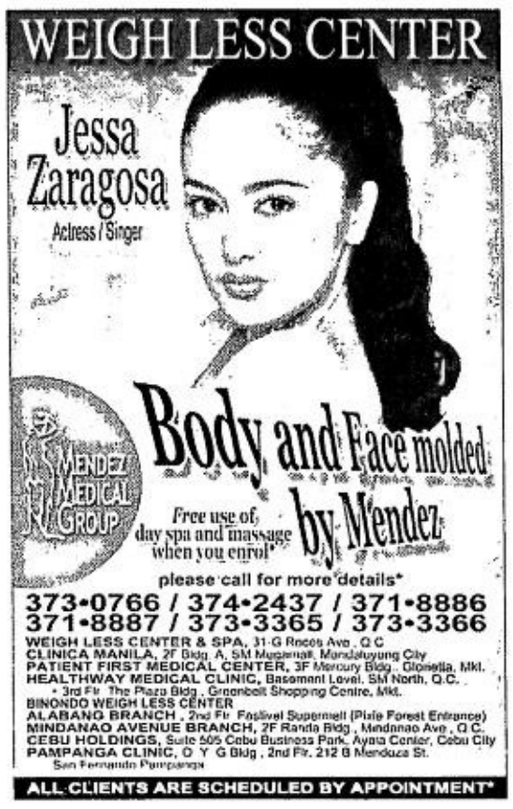
Jolina stars in "Kung Ikaw ay Isang Panaginip," a love story for the whole family, presented by Star Cinema. In the movie, Jolina plays a young girl who is the breadwinner of the family. She fantasizes about Paolo (played by Close-up model Rafael Rosell), whose face is on a billboard that she sees everyday on her way to work. She also meets Eric, an MRT operator, played by Leandro Muñoz. This is where the conflict arises.

Definite views

Jolina has definite views on what she wants in a guy and in a relationship, and what she aspires for in her life. "Partly fairy tale and partly based on experience" describes her views on love. She will know if it is true love by—just knowing!

She admits that when she was younger, she used to believe in love at first sight. She does not dismiss the possibility of this happening, but now that she is older, she prefers what she calls the "development" of love. *"Hindi ako naniniwala na —o,* one week *mo lang ako ligawan,* OK *na tayo. Ako talaga, gusto ko* development. *Kaya ka na-*in love *kasi nakilala*

JOLINA/p.D2



2001 Golden Globes preview

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

ON Jan. 21, the first movie awards for 2001 will be handed out when the 59th Golden Globes will have their awards ceremonies in Beverly Hills, California, USA. The show will be telecast live on Star World at 9 a.m., with primetime replays at 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. TV awards will also be handed out.

Finalists

The Golden Globes are regarded pretty much as a preview of how the Oscars and other movie award-giving bodies will go, so let's see how the finalists shape up:

For best film, drama, "A Beautiful Mind" with Russell Crowe, "In the Bedroom" with Sissy Spacek, "The Fellowship of the Ring" with Elijah Wood, "The Man Who Wasn't There" with Billy Bob Thornton, and "Mulholland Drive" with Naomi Watts.

For best film, musical or comedy, "Bridget Jones' Diary" with Renee Zellweger, "Gosford Park," "Legally Blonde" with Reese Witherspoon," "Moulin Rouge" with Nicole Kidman, and "Shrek."

The frontrunners in the drama category are reported to be "A Beautiful Mind" and "The Fellowship of the Ring," while the musical/comedy standouts are "Moulin Rouge" and "Gosford Park."

Alas, we can't join in the discussion and speculation because most of these movies have yet to be shown in the Philippines. This is a sad state of affairs that shows how local distributors of foreign films have painted us into a corner.

Smaller films

They bring in only those Hollywood blockbusters that they think will do well at the tills, and reject many of the smaller films that usually end up among the year's best abroad.

Thus, we have to date yet to see "In the Bedroom," "The Man Who Wasn't There," "Mulholland Drive," "Bandits," "Gosford Park," "The Deep End," "The Shipping News," "The Others," "The Royal Tenenbaums," "Kate and Leopold," "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," "Monster's Ball," "Ghost World," "Iris," "Life As a House," "Sexy Beast," "Memento," "Amelie," "The Majestic"—!

So, unless we see these films abroad, we will remain in the dark about some of the really important movies being made these days. Isn't that tragic?

If you agree that this situation is both unfair and unhealthy, you should join the move of some film buffs here to pressure movie distributors to bring in these outstanding movies, even if their box-office prospects aren't all that great, and to get them shown at least on limited engagements in a few art-film houses.

Acting categories

Back to the Golden Globes: The finalists in the acting categories, drama: Lead actor, Russell Crowe ("A Beautiful Mind"), "Kevin Spacey ("The Shipping News"), Will Smith ("Ali"), Billy Bob Thornton ("The Man Who Wasn't There") and Denzel Washington ("Training Day").

Lead actress, Halle Berry (Monster's Ball"), Judi Dench ("Iris"), Nicole Kidman ("The Others"), Sissy Spacek ("In the Bedroom"), Tilda Swinton ("TheDeep End").

Musical or comedy: Lead actor, Gene Hackman ("The Royal Tenebaums"), Hugh Jackman ("Kate and Leopold"), Ewan McGregor ("Moulin Rouge"), John Cameron Mitchell ("Hedwig and the Angry Inch") and Billy Bob Thornton ("Bandits").

Lead actress, Thora Birch ("Ghost World"), Cate Blanchett ("Bandits"), Nicole Kidman ("Moulin Rouge"), Reese Witherspoon ("Legally Blonde") and Renee Zellweger ("Bridget Jones' Diary").

As you can see, Nicole Kidman is the big sensation in the 2001 Golden Globes, having clinched finalist honors in both drama and musical/ comedy divisions. Talk about versatility!

Other finalists: Best supporting actor, Jim Broadbent in "Iris," Steve Buscemi in "Ghost World," Hayden Christeusen in "Life As a House," Jude Law in "A.I.: Artificial Intelligence," and Jon Voight in "Ali."

Best supporting actress, Jennifer Connelly in "A Beautiful Mind," Cameron Diaz in "Vanilla Sky," Helen Mirren and Maggie Smith in "Gosford Park," and Kate Winslet in "Iris."

Finalists for best director

Best director, Robert Altman for "Gosford Park," Ron Howard for "A Beautiful Mind," Peter Jackson for "The Fellowship of the Ring," Baz Luhrman for "Moulin Rouge," David Lynch for "Mulholland Drive" and Steven Spielberg for "A.I.: Artificial Intelligence."

Best screenplay, "A Beautiful Mind" written by

2001/ p.D2

Cooking in Canada

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

VANCOUVER, Canada—There are various ways of looking at cooking. Some perceive it to be a chore. Others look at it as an obligation, while still others just love doing it. I not only love to cook, but also eat! And this place is a paradise for food lovers and cooking enthusiasts. There are all sorts of good restaurants all over!

Ingredients

All the ingredients that one will see in any cookbook can be found here. Before, because of lack of ingredients, I would have to do some creative substituting. But here in Canada, I no longer do that. Let me share two dishes that I prepared on two separate occasions:

The first is a salmon dish. As one-time Canadian resident Paeng Soong of North Park says, "*Sa* Vancouver, *magsasawa ka sa* salmon." I am not there yet, but I'm fast approaching it. I bought a whole salmon on sale for the equivalent of P120.

I remembered a recipe my former cooking partner Nova Villa told me about. She mixes mayonnaise and dill and covers the salmon filet with the mixture and presto a miracle!

I experimented a little. I mixed mayonnaise, Dijon mustard, lemon juice, dill and some parmessan cheese and wiped the filet all over with it. This I baked for 25 minutes at 350 degrees F. When done, I topped it with some fresh slices of onions and capers. The taste was unbelievable!

Great taste

For another festive meal, I went to the only grocery here that sells Angus beef, Save On Foods. There, I ordered five ribs of boneless ready-to-roast prime rib (loaded with marbling-white fatty lines in the middle of the meat that gives it the great taste). I later discovered they had included five detached ribs to my order.

For the roast, I mixed finely chopped garlic, Dijon mustard, thyme, rosemary, Italian seasoning, olive oil, salt and freshly cracked pepper. I rubbed this mixture all over the roast and turned to work on the ribs.

I rubbed a little of the mixture on the five bones and ribs. This I put in some aluminum foil and poured some onion soup on it. I sealed that and put it in an oven to bake for a few hours.

For the roast, I put the oven at 450 degrees F for 15 minutes just to seal the outside, and lowered the flame to 180 degrees F and slowly roasted it for about four hours. It came out partly medium and medium rare. It was perfectly roasted! With the drippings, I added some flour and onion soup and that's what we used as sauce.

Oozing with flavor

With the ribs, I messed up. I had overbaked them, so the meat was practically falling off the bones. The ribs were so tender, sticky and delicious. The roast was also tender, juicy and just oozing with flavor. A great quality meat like Angus is almost impossible to mess up.

The whole meal was just splendid! We had French baguettes and some baked potatoes on the side. I got very positive comments. An admiring comment is one of the best encouragements you can give a cook. It is our vehicle for wanting to cook more. This is what we cooks call simple joy!

I plan to duplicate the meal at the home of my friends, Monch and Anette Cruz. Santi's has Angus beef too (but frozen)!

Cooking can be fun! The key is to find a good recipe or cookbook!

Happy eating!

sandydaza@hotmail.com

Forestage presents two prizewinning one-act plays

FORESTAGE and San Beda College are staging two prizewinning plays by Nestor U. Torre starting today, Jan. 12 until Feb. 24 at San Beda's Abbot Lopez Auditorium. The one-act plays, "A Second Generation" and "Dialogue," won top prizes in the Palanca Awards.

"A Second Generation" is directed by Babes Aquino-Cabbab and topbills Edwin Decenteceo, Lanie Dilao, Menard Llamzon, Robert Dalida and Bianca Lapuz. "Dialogue" is directed by Mel Magno and stars Abet Zialcita, Tanya Cabbab, Ryan Lastra, Andrew Fulo and Garth Guevara.

Exchange student

"A Second Generation" is about a childless Filipino couple who have taken in an American exchange student and have learned to love him like their own son. They are shocked when the young man announces that he's going back to the States with his girlfriend, whom the couple doesn't approve of.

"Dialogue" is set in the office of a university president who is about to have a romantic rendezvous with a female faculty member. Suddenly, they are accosted by three students, one of whom has had a run-in with the university president in the past. In the course of their tense stand-off, prejudices and other secrets are exposed.

"DIALOGUE" stars include Abet Zialcita and Tanya Cabbab (at center and right).

Performance dates

The two prizewinning plays will be performed at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Jan. 12, 13, 19, 20 and Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24. There will be special performances on Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 26 at 6 p.m.

Aside from "A Second Generation" and "Dialogue," Torre's other prizewinning plays include "One Swallow in Its Summer (Indio)," "No Sadder Race," "And A Happy Birthday," "Apparitions" and "Out of Darkness."

Physical ailments are rooted in spiritual immaturity

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

TOO much sugar, salt or fatty food is never good for our health. We all know that, but how do we overcome our addiction to food that ruins our health? My teacher's answer is simple: have higher taste.

Emptiness

Inner cravings stem from an emptiness not of our stomach but of our very being—spirit soul. We attempt to fill up our unhappiness with pleasures of the tongue, eyes, ears, etc., but because we are spiritual in nature, our materialistic attempts never satisfy us.

We do not only end up more lonely and guilty after our overeating binges, but we also become obese and unhealthy. Our physical ailments are rooted in our spiritual immaturity.

Spiritual life is nourishing not only for the soul but also for the body. True spirituality is based on wisdom, self-realization and happiness. The spiritualist consumes what is required by the body for good health and sees no need to waste precious resources to excite the tongue or nose. He eats to live and never lives to eat.

True satisfaction

If the senses nag, he engages them in spiritual acts to give them true satisfaction. Instead of overeating, he uses the tongue to speak the truth or glorify the Supreme. He uses the eyes to read scriptures instead of gazing upon pastries and candies. He chooses to be master of the senses and mind rather than their slave.

Higher taste comes from knowing, serving and loving the Supreme Being. There is no other real and lasting source of sweetness.

The genuine nectar of love for God satisfies the lonely heart. That nectar is so intoxicating that the living entity becomes joyful and desirous of distributing it to those who do not have it.

Material happiness has been said to be sweet in the beginning but bitter in the end, That is the reality of all the fake sweeteners and sugar-coated material pleasures that are attractive and colorful to the eyes and tongue but bring misery to our health and well-being. We are like kids who live in fantasy land. It's about time we grow up and seek the real thing.

Let's start the year right. Give up garbage, recognize the fake, seek the genuine and be truly healthy.

Jolina looks . . . (From page D1)

mo, hindi dahil sa nagwapuhan ka lang o nabaitan ka ng isang gabi," she explains.

Jolina reveals that the first thing she looks for in a guy is character. She doesn't base her attraction on what is physically obvious because looks can be deceiving. "*Puedeng akala mo mukhang anghel, pero hindi naman pala.* So *imuna kong kilalanin iyung pagkatao niya.*" Jolina says that she could love a man even if he is not that good-looking. "*Magra*-radiate *naman iyung pagkatao niya kung mabuti iyung nasa loob niya. Pag nag*-smile *siya, makikita naman iyon.*"

Taking risks and getting hurt in the process is all part of love, says the singer. "*Kasama iyon.* Once *na*-in love *ka, kailangan maharap mo iyung mga* risks *na puede kang saktan, o puede kang paligayahin. Kailangan may* risks *talaga kasi* you'll never learn *kung lagi na lang masasaya.*"

The hopeless romantic also believes that there is someone out there who is destined just for her. "*Hindi ka naman makakalimutan ni* Lord, *di ba? Siya na ang bahala sa akin. Kasi alam ko, meron diyan.* It's either *nakita ko na siya, nakasalubong ko na siya, or nakabangga ko na siya. Pero hindi ibig sabihin nagkakilala na kami.*"

And when she meets the right guy, she will definitely be thinking of walking down the aisle with him sometime in the future—when she has taken care of her family already but still have enough left for herself.

Marital break-ups

Jolina also knows that not all marriages work out, and women often end up as the losers, especially when it comes to the financial aspect. She wants to guard against this: "*Mabuti na yung kahit iwanan ako, kaya ko'ng sarili ko para hindi ako pagmamalakihan, di ba?*"

What exactly is she looking for in a guy? She agrees with psychologists who say that women usually choose men who remind them of their fathers. What is her father like? In one word, *maalaga.* "*Nakita ko kung paano kami palakihin ng* dad *ko, kung papaano kami ingatan.* So, *ang una kong tinitingnan sa lalaki iyung merong* sense of responsibility."

Younger man

She says that age doesn't matter to her. But when we talk about a much younger man, she squirms in her seat and makes a face. "*Sobra naman!*" but doesn't close the doors to the possibility. She says financial status doesn't matter, either. "*Kasi merong di naman ganoon ka yaman pero* hard worker, *maabilidad ba.*" When it comes to race, she says she prefers Filipinos.

But if there is one thing that is non-negotiable to Jolina, it is religion. "*Dapat* Katoliko," she says firmly. She would also prefer that her future husband not be from show biz. "*Kasi gusto ko pag-uwi ko ng bahay, tahimik,* relax *na lang, kasama ang pamilya ko,*" she says wearily.

Jolina does realize that having a non-show biz spouse has its downside: he might not understand her work. But she still prefers dealing with this problem rather than having her private life right smack in the public's view.

Lessons

And if there is one thing that she has learned from her past experiences in love, it's this: "Always keep something for yourself." She has also learned that you should respect yourself first. "*Kasi kung mahal mo ang sarili mo, walang makakapag*-put down *sa iyo.* It's your loss, not mine!"

2001...

(From page D1)

Akiva Goldsman, "Gosford Park by Julian Fellowes, "The Man Who Wasn't There" by Ethan and Joel Coen, "Memento" by Christopher Nolan, and "Mulholland Drive" by David Lynch.

The 2001 Golden Globe finalists are a good blend of established and newer talents. This is an encouraging sign that the film scene is continually renewing itself with new inputs while building on the solid foundation established by veterans in the field.

SMART

Name That Tone

It's So Easy! This Game Is All Via Text. You'll Get A Clue About A Song, Then Download Its Tone, So You Can Guess The Title And Sing Your Way To Big Cash Prizes!

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Key in NTT and send to 234.
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Your registration automatically earns you a raffle entry for all weekly draws.

Play The Game!

You will then receive a clue about the mystery tone of the day.

Guess The Title By Downloading The Tone!

Key in TONE and send to 234. Together with the downloaded tone, you will also receive the multiple choice set of ringtone titles.

Text in your Answer!

Simply key in ANSWER <A, B or C> and send to 234. You will receive a message telling you whether you got the correct answer or not. There will only be one chance to guess the mystery tone of the day. Each correct answer earns you 5 raffle entries for the Weekly, Monthly and Grand draws.

Invite Your Friends And Earn More Raffle Entries!

Key in INVITE <your friend's SMART celfone number> and send to 234. Each invite earns you 1 raffle entry, to be added to your total raffle entries.

To redisplay the clue, key in SHOW and send to 234.
To check your raffle entries, key in POINTS and send to 234.
To temporarily stop receiving the daily questions, key in UPDATE OFF and send to 234.
To resume receiving the daily questions, key in UPDATE ON and send to 234.
The mystery tone of the day will be updated at 12 midnight daily.

Only subscribers with ringtone-download-capable handsets will be able to hear the mystery tone of the day. However, downloading is necessary to get the multiple choice set of ringtone titles. A subscriber without the necessary handset can still answer based on the clue and multiple choice set of ringtone titles.

WIN THESE PRIZES!

DRAW DATE	CASH PRIZE
GRAND DRAW: (1 winner) Feb. 11, 2002	₱200,000.00
MONTHLY DRAWS: (1 winner per draw) Jan. 14 and Feb. 11, 2002	₱50,000.00
WEEKLY DRAWS: (3 winners per draw) Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 Feb. 4, and 11, 2002	₱10,000.00

**There will be a standard charge of ₱12.00 per ringtone download and ₱2.50 per message for all other transactions.*
**Cut-off time for the entries will be at 11:59 PM of the day before the draw date.*
**Ringtone-download-capable handsets are: Nokia 3210, 3310, 3330, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8310, and 9210.*

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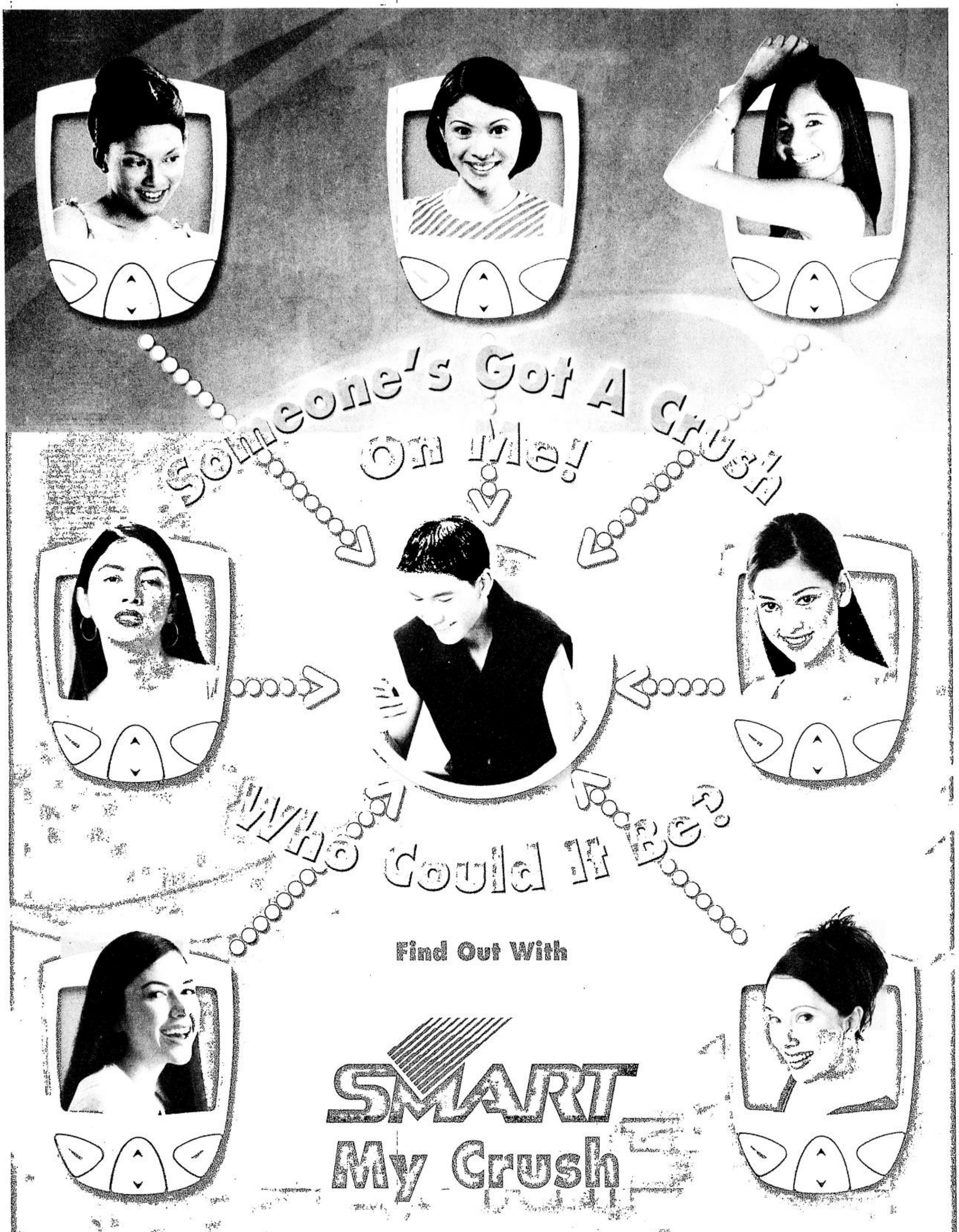

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MYCRUSH OFF

3. To turn off the service, key in MYCRUSH followed by OFF and send to 262. To turn the service back on, key in MYCRUSH followed by ON and send to 262.

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SPLASH CORPORATION

Leading the way to market domination in 2002

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Editor
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager

MESSAGES

IT IS WITH pleasure that I extend my warmest felicitations to the management and staff of Splash Corporation on the inauguration of their new manufacturing plant.

I congratulate your company for its many years of meritorious accomplishments. Its remarkable growth over the years bespeaks of the Filipino's creativity, industry and initiative. Furthermore, the inauguration of your new manufacturing plant signifies another milestone in your company's history and in nation building. This goes to show that amidst the challenges of the times, you have manifested the desire to be at the forefront of the efforts to bolster national development. I hope this event will usher greater growth for your company and inspire you to explore further opportunities to expand your business in the country.

The role of Splash Corporation in fostering more sustained growth for the country is vital especially now that we are at a delicate phase in our country's economic recovery efforts. The task is daunting but with our concerted efforts, we can make a difference and a substantial contribution towards this goal. I call on each and every one of you to keep up the good work by helping our administration achieve its development goals to promote better lives for the Filipino people.

I urge all of you to participate in the efforts to hasten the development of our nation. Let us continue our work together in steering our country towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and *mabuhay*!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

OUR WARMEST greetings to management and staff of Splash Corporation as you inaugurate your new P500-million manufacturing plant and support facility in the City of Valenzuela on Jan. 12, 2002

It is heartening to note that from its humble beginnings 17 years ago in 1985 with an initial capital of only P12,000 and 30 employees, Splash has grown to become the largest 100-percent Filipino-owned personal care company in an industry that has long been dominated by big multinational firms with an estimated P2.6-billion turnover in 2001. Not only are its wide range of products distributed by retail outlets all over the Philippines, but more significantly, Splash products are proudly flying the Filipino flag in 17 countries in Asia and the Middle East.

This growth, progress and prosperity attest to what a Filipino company can achieve through hard work, determination, a forward-looking business outlook, a sense of purpose and mission, and a deep commitment to outstanding customer service. Your success story should serve as a glowing inspiration to other aspiring Filipino enterprises in various fields and serve as a reaffirmation that indeed, the Filipino has what it takes to make it in any endeavor.

We are confident that Splash Corporation would continue to pursue the thrusts of offering only top quality products that comply with government rules and regulations including product standards, providing its clientele with the best quality and value for money that the market could offer, and widening the options available to Filipino consumers. Likewise, we hope that the company continues to support government efforts in the control, prevention and elimination of unfair, unscrupulous and anomalous trade practices in all shapes and shades. All these are imperative in an increasingly competitive borderless global economy.

To Splash Corporation, our sincere congratulations and best wishes for continuing success.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

I WISH to convey my sincerest congratulations to the Splash Corporation on occasion of the inauguration of its newest manufacturing plant along Lazaro Street in Valenzuela City.

The inauguration of this manufacturing plant at the onset of the new year augurs well not only for the people of Valenzuela City but more importantly for the greater Filipino nation for it signifies revved up economic vigor and renewed vitality. At times when the economy is perceived to be at its lowest level, Splash Corporation's newest venture may serve as a wake-up call for other industries on the verge of stacking off. The others shall see that indeed, we can get up and move on.

I commend Splash Corporation in its efforts to produce products of excellent quality which are undeniably at par with those produced by other countries.

Proudly Philippine-made or Tatak Pinoy. However your products may be labeled, it is fervently wished by this humble representation that your company continue to showcase outputs that mirror the renowned Filipino ingenuity and world-class excellence. Your company's successes ought to be duplicated: your work values followed.

Mabuhay ang Splash Corporation.

SHERWIN GATCHALIAN
Representative
1st District, Valuenzuela City

MY HEARTFELT congratulations to Splash Corporation for the great strides it has made through the years that it has been in business.

The inauguration of its new manufacturing plant and support facilities is another testament to its continuing growth.

I would also like to thank Splash for keeping faith with the future of the City of Valenzuela by making it its home and base of operation.

Indeed, Splash Corporation epitomizes our vision of an excelling society and an achieving community in the city.

May you serve as the salt and the light of the business sector not only in Valenzuela but in the entire country as well. And may your tribe increase.

Again, congratulations and thank you.

JOSE EMMANUEL L. CARLOS, M.D.
Mayor
City of Valenzuela

THE SPLASH organization is used to working silently. Through the years, we have managed to achieve our success with the minimum of fanfare.

This time, however, there is that irresistible urge to let the world know what we have accomplished. And why not? The new manufacturing facility that we are inaugurating today has been part of the dream we wove almost 17 years ago when we founded Splash as a small enterprise.

Indeed, the new facility is a source of our joy and pride. It adds credence to our battlecry: "Bagong Pilipino, Maka-Pilipino. Kayang Tumapat sa buong mundo."

But we haven't reached our destination yet. Our vision is a moving target and we will continually move on. We will sustain efforts to keep us in the cutting edge of global competitiveness. We shall proudly proclaim our Filipino heritage. We shall consistently show the world that the Filipino can excel and triumph.

ROLANDO B. HORTALEZA, M.D.
Chairman and CEO
Splash Corporation

100% FILIPINO-DESIGNED

All the best from a fully automated manufacturing plant

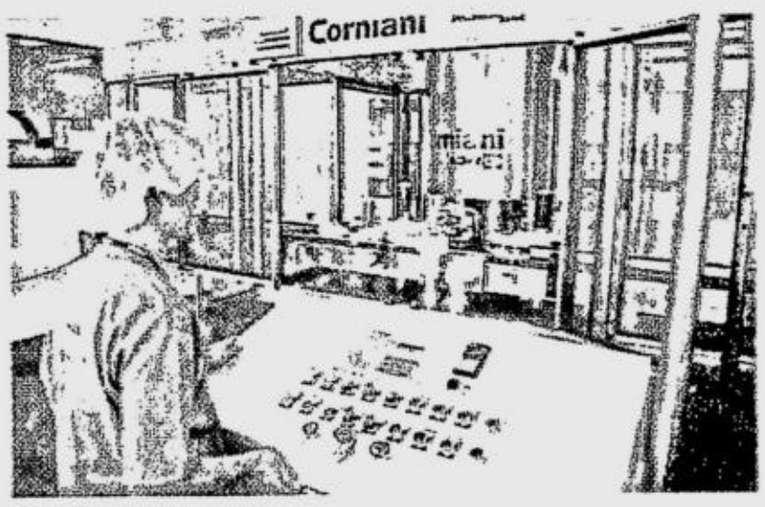
IT'S ANOTHER great day for being a Filipino. Splash Corporation, the leading 100-percent Filipino-owned personal care company in the country today, proudly inaugurates its ultra-modern manufacturing complex in Valenzuela City.

In many ways, Splash Corporation's new manufacturing plant is the physical embodiment of the company's latest—and most important thrust—to expand its dominance in the local as well as in the international markets. (See page E2)

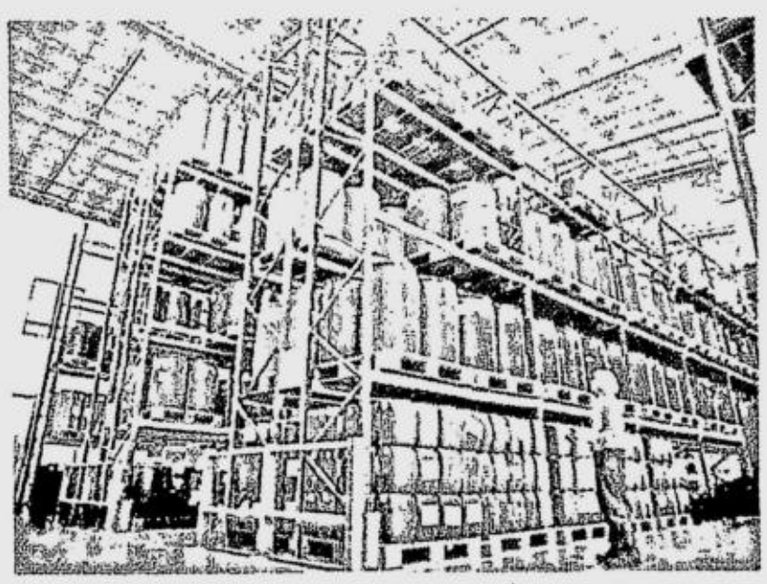
The plant is a showcase of technology at its best. A sprawling three-hectare complex designed entirely by Filipinos, the plant boasts of fully automated machineries and systems for practically all of the processes involved in the manufacture and packaging of all Splash products. Its storage and production capabilities are designed to meet the huge market and quality requirements of the Asia-Pacific region. The complex also houses the research and development facilities.

Fully automated systems ensure a consistent mix of the appropriate amounts of substances in the production stage. The plant also utilizes the latest systems and equipment in the maintenance of hygiene and sanitation control within and around the premises. These include an ultraviolet (UV) room air sterilization to prevent microbial contamination, lockers with a built-in exhaust system (uniforms will not be used outside the company premises), and a centralized dry waste collection area.

The plant is also environment-friendly. It has its own waste water treatment plant employing the aeration-chemical-bacteriological process that isolates waste from a professional product line. Its complete and ultra-modern hygiene and sanitation controls and plant utilities ensure that research, manufacturing and packaging processes are kept in a completely controlled environment. It also has its own water treatment plant using the reverse osmosis process, electrical power sub-station, its own chilled water supply and a steam supply from a boiler.

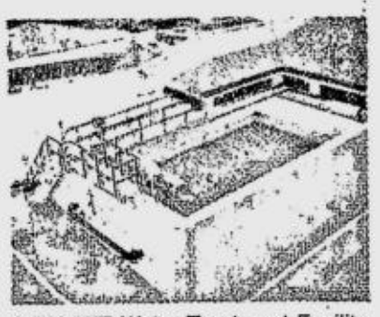


THE NON-PHARMA Filling and Packaging Area produces the finished products of Extract Facial Cleansers, Exfolite Facial Cleansers and Vitasoft Baby Colognes.



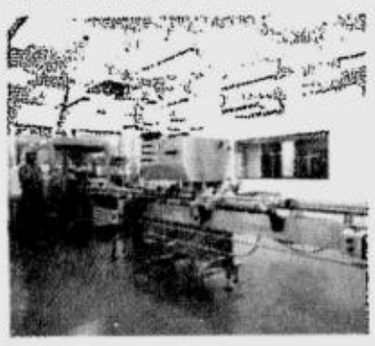
A CHEMICAL Store houses all raw materials.

A FINISHED Goods Warehouse organizes and categorizes products into three groups: Personal Care, Professional Care and Specialized Care.



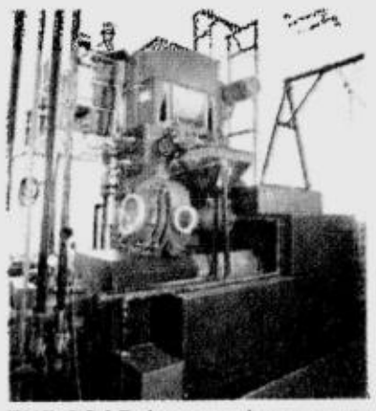
A WASTE Water Treatment Facility employs an environment-friendly method of treating water before it is released domestically.

THE PHARMA Filling and Packaging Areas include a machine that operates exclusively for exfoliants like Extraderm, Maxi-Peel and Clarifiance.



THE NON-PHARMA Liquids Compound Area features four kinds of tanks which efficiently complement the operations in the Pharma Liquids Compound Area.

THE GEL Area produces all finished products of Tricks Styling Gels.



THE SOAP Area produces soap brands such as Extraderm, Skin White and Hiyas Papaya.

FROM BACKYARD BUSINESS TO GLOBAL ENTERPRISE

Innovation is the key to taking on the world

SPLASH Corporation prides itself in being the leading 100-percent Filipino-owned personal care company in the Philippines today. It is, in fact, the lone Filipino enterprise competing head-to-head with such multinational companies as Unilever, Procter & Gamble, Colgate-Palmolive, Johnson & Johnson, and Avon.

What makes this status more remarkable—and admirable—is how Splash Corporation started out. And it started out without fanfare, with the barest of resources, but with the fullest of determination and the clearest of visions.

The husband-and-wife team of Drs. Rolando B. Hortaleza and Rosalinda Hortaleza started a backyard enterprise on May 5, 1985 manufacturing and distributing hair spray, cuticle remover, acetone and cold wave lotions to beauty stores and neighborhood parlors. The business then was called RBH Cosmetics.

OUR VISION

We are the leading provider of proudly Filipino initiated world-class products.

OUR MISSION

To commit ourselves to continuously search for new sources of value that would satisfy our customers' latent needs. We intend to do this by:

- Nurturing a culture of excellence;
- A governance built on values;
- A fervent commitment to product innovation; and
- A consuming passion to succeed

With creative and able leadership, RBH Cosmetics grew phenomenally. In 1991, the company became Splash Cosmetics. In 1992, Splash Cosmetics was incorporated and renamed Splash Manufacturing Corporation (SMC). Since then, Splash became synonymous with innovative and pioneering cosmetics and personal care products, produced at the highest quality standards and delivered to utmost customer satisfaction.

Splash Corporation is now ranked number 6 in the personal care industry in the Philippines. This standing was reinforced in 2000 when SGS International granted SMC the ISO 9002 certification. This seal meant each product that came out in the market met the global standards of quality and safety.

For three years in a row (1998, 1999 and 2000), Splash Corporation was awarded the best manufacturer of cosmetics and personal care products by the Consumers Union of the Philippines.

Going international inevitable

The overwhelming success of Splash products in the Philippine market established a blue-chip reputation for the company among customers across the country—a diverse group consisting of suppliers, dealers, consumers, dermatologists, drugstores and beauty and cosmetics centers. These market forces made expansion beyond Philippine shores inevitable. Today, Splash has established footholds in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Middle East, Hong Kong, China, and India. This year, Splash Corporation expands its reach by starting a distribution network in Thailand and Vietnam.

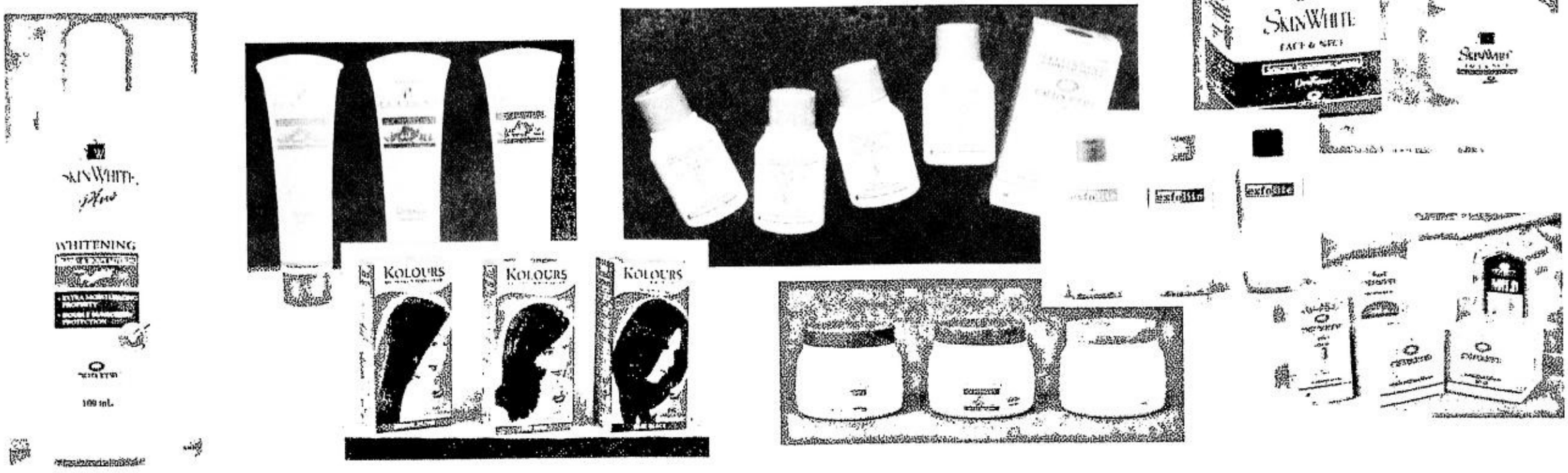
> Splash Corporation's remarkable growth over the years bespeaks of the Filipino's creativity, industry and initiative
>
> – *Gloria Macapagal Arroyo*

The best can only get better, the strong can only get stronger. This year, Splash Corporation focuses its strengths and resources on its core businesses. The company is poised to replicate its local success in the competitive global arena.

That is reason enough to launch a wave of pride among us Filipinos.

The history of Splash Corporation proves that an idea hatched in our own backyards can make a difference for a country. Now, Splash Corporation is looking beyond borders. Poised to make its mark in the world, Splash Corporation means what it says: "Bagong Pilipino, Maka-Pilipino. *Kayang tumapat sa buong mundo.*"

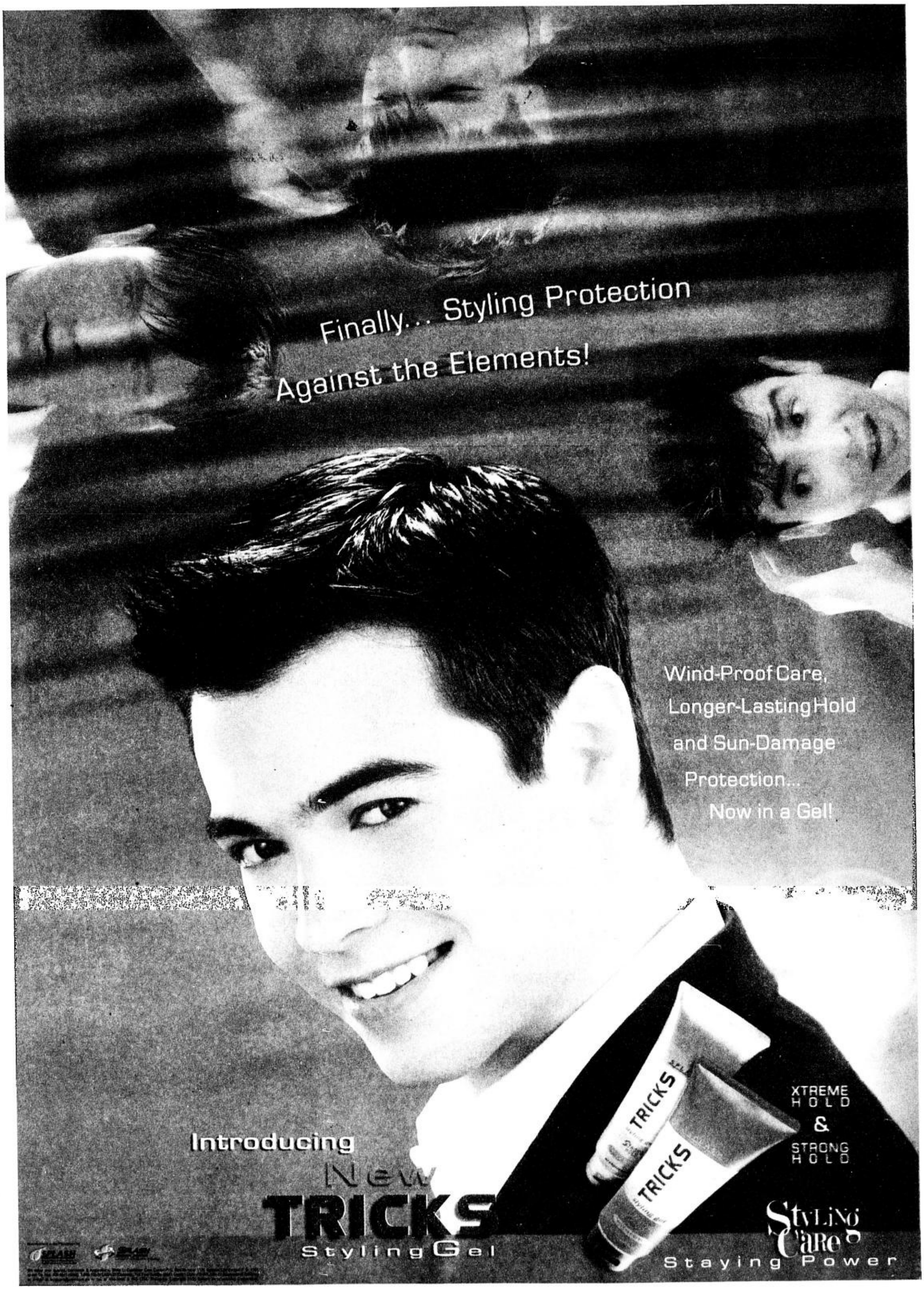
Splash products: world-class, proudly Filipino-initiated



Leading the way to market domination in 2002

"Splash's success story should serve as a glowing inspiration to other aspiring Filipino enterprises in various fields and serve as a reaffirmation that indeed, the Filipino has what it takes to make it in any endeavor"

– Mar Roxas



Trusted by millions.
Proven by millions.

With Extraderm's original whitening formula,
SkinWhite gives you the same
brand of whitening na trusted at
proven ng mas nakararaming Pilipina.
Talagang magaling at effective ang whitening na
dulot ng SkinWhite.
Take it from the millions who stand behind it.
Time to come into the light. Trust in SkinWhite.

SPLASH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SPLASH MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
"Bagong Pilipino. Mala Pilipino."
Kayang tumapat sa buong mundo.

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Junior Inquirer

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 15

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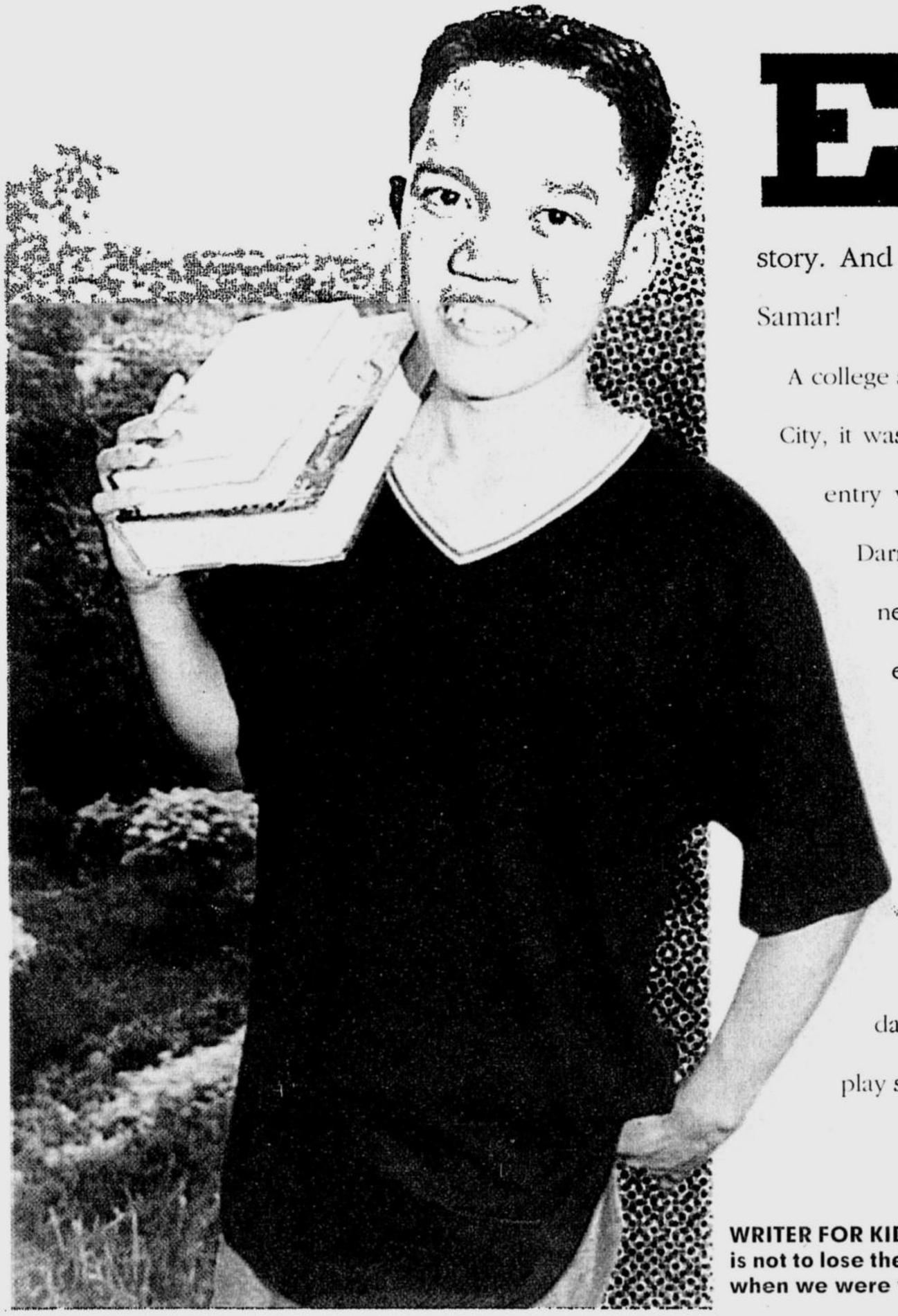
Storytelling 'Kuya'

Ateneo writer's story on OCW mom bags this year's Salanga Writer's Prize



EVERY YEAR the Philippine Board on Books for Young People holds a contest for the best children's story. And this year's winner is...*tadah*! Edgar Samar!

A college student at the Ateneo de Manila in Quezon City, it was Edgar's first time to join the contest. His entry was titled "Uuwi na ang Nanay kong si Darna." Before he knew it, he was receiving news that he won the prestigious Salanga Writer's Prize.

His winning probably shouldn't come as a surprise. Edgar's the *Kuya* of a story-loving clan. He's got two younger brothers, and eight cousins ranging in age from one year to 11. The youngest is his goddaughter, Kate. Together they play, play, and play some more.

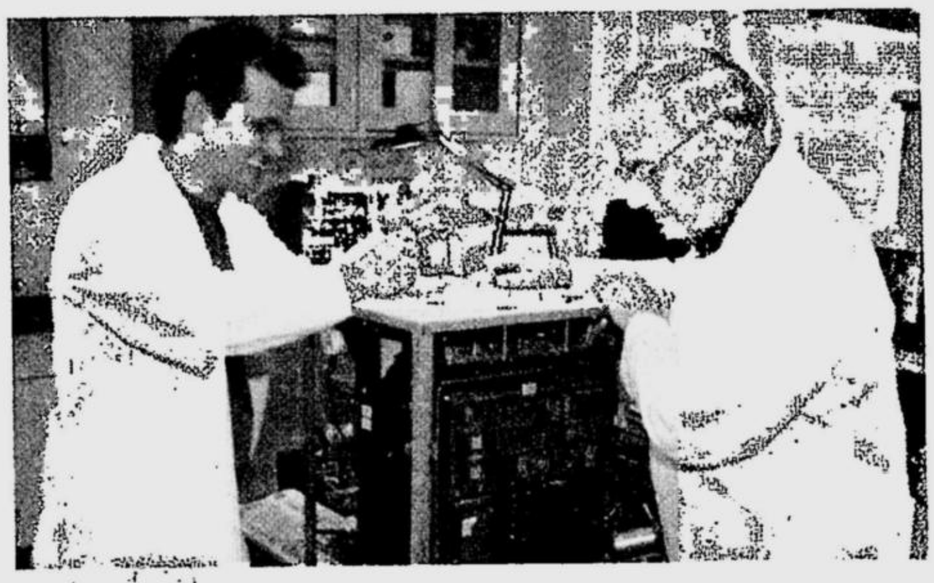
Storytelling /p. 9

WRITER FOR KIDS. Edgar says "the best tip in writing for kids is not to lose the sense of amazement and wonder we all had when we were younger." ROGER CARPIO

WORLD SCOPE

Walk for a Cause

KIDS participate in a "Walk for Autism." Autism is a pervasive life-long disability that affects two million Indians. ***AP***



Electronic Nose

FRANCO Basile (left), an assistant research professor, joins Dr. Kent Voorhees in toiling on an "electronic nose." This super sniffer will be used to quickly detect many kinds of bacterial and chemical substances. It also might be used in security agencies to detect dangerous stuff like anthrax. ***AP***

Funniest Joke

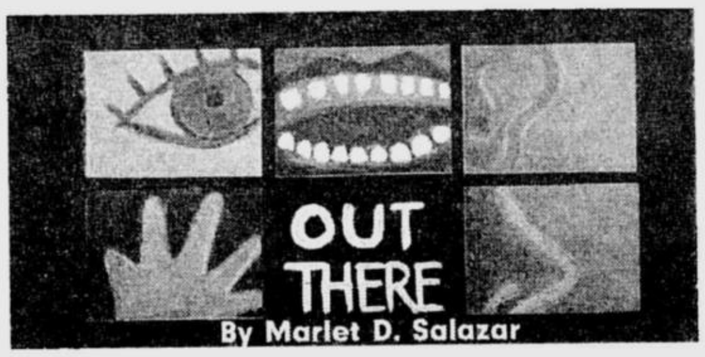
GEOFF Anandappa, who submitted what has been adjudged the world's funniest joke, poses in London's The Gag, involving Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson and a tent, was deemed to bring the most laughs worldwide in a study by Britain's University of Hertfordshire, through Internet site, www.LaughLab.co.uk, where jokes are posted on the Internet. ***AP***

Yeach!

OAK Grove School head custodian Fred Hall displays a handful of compost dirt made from some of the school's trash. Hall began the school's program 12 years ago in which students and teachers separate and recycle anything that can be as well as leftover food which is saved and given to local pig owners for pig feed. The composed dirt is mixed with the school grounds soil and makes terrific soil for planting plants and trees. ***AP***

Last Coke Bottle

MARTIN Schwartze, a 31-year employee of the Jefferson City Coca-Cola Bottling Co. in Minnesota, checks the carbonation on bottles of Coke as they are bottled. This will be the last day that this plant will fill 6.5-ounce returnable glass Coke bottles. Carl Vogel, a state legislator and fourth generation distributor at the Jefferson City facility, said modern plastic bottles with twist off caps are replacing the glass bottles. But Vogel also said that the retirement of Schwartze, who can run the ancient bottling machinery, played a big part in the decision to stop distribution of glass Coke products. ***AP***



Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Stuff

NEW BOOK. Check out the new book of children's author Carla M. Pacis titled "OCW." Follow the adventures of Tonyo who hurdles challenges along the road so he can bring back his mother who worked abroad. Grab your copy now at all National Bookstore outlets.

Workshops

FREE WRITING WORKSHOP. A free workshop on creative writing is open for public school students ages 10-16. Workshop starts on April 2002. Complete the following requirements and send to P.O. BOX 355, Pasay City Central Post Office, Pasay City: a photocopy of your school I.D., your teacher's recommendation, photocopies of written works, and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Deadline is on Feb. 20, 2002.

LITTLE MASTERS. Faber Castell invites grade school pupils to join the Little Masters Club. It is an art club where kids can join art workshops and exhibits. Registration is ongoing. For more information call up Ms Jane Ebarle at 361-7391 to 92.

Contest

PBBY POSTER. The Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting design proposals for the 2002 NCBD poster. The guiding theme is "Salamat sa Libro, Abot Ko ang Mundo." The winning design will be chosen by the board and their comments for finalizing the poster will be given to the winning designer. Entries must be received by PBBY Secretariat not later than 5 p.m. on Feb. 15, 2002. For more important details call up 372-3548 , send an email to pbby@adarna.com.ph, or drop by their office at 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City.

KID-KALIKASAN. Join the "Kabundukan, Ilog at Dagat Kalikasan" poster making contest. Contestants must be 7-12 years old, residents of Bicol, Eastern and Central Visayas, or in the Caraga region. For more important info call up the following Community-Based Resource Management Project office near you: CBRMP-Bicol 3F ANST. Bldg., Washington Drive, Legazpi City, tel. (052) 481-4562; CBRMP-Central Visayas 5F BF Bldg. N. Escario St., Cebu City, tel. (032) 412-6745; CBRMP-Eastern Visayas 2F Timo Romano Bldg., Real St. Sagkahan District, Tacloban City, tel. (053) 321-1388; CBRMP-Caraga 3F Aguilar Bldg. Pili Drive, Butuan City, tel. (085) 815-0320; and CBRMP-Central Office 7F EDPC Bldg., Department of Finance, BSP Complex, Roxas Blvd. Malate, Manila, tel. (02) 526-7335, 523-6325 or send an email to folay@info.com.ph

AN AFTERNOON WITH "KUYA" BODJIE. The famous Kuya Bodjie delights the kids who took part in Goodwill Glorietta Kiddie Camp's Christmas party last month. After fun, games, magic and lots of surprises, Kuya Bodjie then enchanted them in the storytelling session. Goodwill Kiddie Camp and Sacred Heart School give workshops, storytelling and has a day care center located at the basement of Goodwill Bookstore, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR. The Mandaluyong Children's Chorus was one of the featured artists in the prestigious 3rd San Agustin International Music Festival at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros. They performed with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra led by Maestro Ruggero Barbieri. The Mandaluyong Children's Chorus with founding music director Sebastian Trinidad is a member of the Madz et al. Inc, the network of choirs of the Philippine Madrigal Singers.

Cable Picks

SHOWS ON NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC. Check out the line up of exciting shows brought to you by National Geographic Channel.

- **CROCS IN CRISIS.** NGC brings viewers to the bustling tourist resort of Cancun, once the idyllic home for crocodiles and now faces a croc crisis. Urban development has increased while the croc population has remained steady. Catch all the adventures on Jan. 22 at 10 p.m.
- **CHINESE TOY STORIES.** Behind every traditional Chinese toy is a unique story just waiting to be told. There are toys that dance but have no moving parts, toys made of flour that bring protection from evil, etc. From smallest to largest, youngest to oldest, every Chinese toy has a story to tell on "Chinese Toy Stories." Watch it on Jan. 20 at 10 p.m.

Life in JASMS

AN ESSAY BY
MATIKAS Z. SANTOS
JASMS, QUEZON CITY
ILLUSTRATIONS BY
LYRA ABUEG GARCELLANO

IT all started when I was in kinder. I was bored in my old school so my mother thought that I should just follow my cousins and go to Jose Abad Santos Memorial School (or JASMS. My cousins are Jonathan Roy "Yok-yok" X. Perilla, Feena Grace "En-en" Z. Perilla and Feliciano Cezar "Shan-shan" Z. Perilla. They are all siblings. Yok Yok is the eldest, En-en the second eldest and Shan is the youngest. Later Zanny Jay Z. Perilla was born and he is now the youngest.

And so my JASMS years began. Yok Yok was already Grade 2 and En En was Grade 1. Kinder was fun because of the many friends that I made. These friends of mine are still my friends until now.

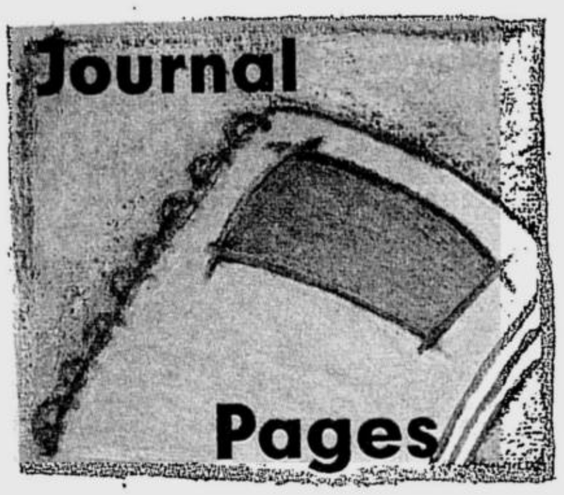
In Grade 1, I met my old friends and met more friends too. Somehow I felt a lot better probably because I already knew everybody. We got to share our experiences about the summer. I told them about my trip to the caves in Peñablanca in Cagayan with my mother.

IN GRADE 2, my friends and I really got along well. We played tag, hide and seek and many more. We also went exploring in JASMS. I remember there was no volleyball court yet and there was no patch of concrete in front of the gymnasium. The volleyball court was just grass, so my schoolmates played volleyball on the basketball court. I think the concrete patch was put there when I was about Grade 4-6 as extra classrooms but if they did that, we wouldn't have any place to play on. After the cement was laid they cancelled it and instead built new classrooms near the high school and college buildings, leaving behind the cement. Then the PE teachers decided to make it a volleyball court.

Whatever!

That summer, I went to Baguio with my mother again. We had been going there every year. I even have pictures taken of some buildings before and after the earthquake. Sometimes we go there in December. Sometimes we go during summer so I have stories to tell to my classmates.

Life/p.10



Trip to a Drug Rehab Center

BY ANNA ELVIRA S. ARCELLANA
MIRIAM COLLEGE GRADE SCHOOL

TO BE HONEST with you, I felt confused when I heard our batch was going to a drug rehabilitation center. I didn't know whether to feel excited, disappointed or anxious.

When we arrived at the center, I felt something different. The place seemed to be filled with sorrow, but then I realized it was also filled with hope.

We made our way to the center's chapel for a short program. There were four facilitators—two from the center's staff and the other two were drug addicts who shared with us why they took drugs.

One of them started taking drugs after experiencing heartbreak while the other one got hooked on drugs because of peer pressure. They began taking drugs just to give it a try,

until they couldn't stop. Like a fire eating up a building, drugs began to ruin all the aspects of their lives. When they couldn't do anything but watch their world fall apart, the center came to the rescue. The rehab center came to bring the light and hope.

We discovered a lot of things when the speakers answered our questions during the open forum. At present, the center serves about 360 patients. I couldn't believe it. Imagine how many sad stories and how many mistakes!

But I want to look at the bright side instead. Just think about how many people may soon be cured from this addiction and lead good lives. At the center, these addicts are considered as patients, not detainees. It is a place for healing, not a place for punishment.

As we traveled back to Manila, I knew that the weird feelings I had about drug addicts had disappeared. The trip made me realize that the drug problem affects each and everyone of us and that all the sectors of our nation must do their part in addressing this menace. The drug addiction problem is starting to destroy the morality of this great country. Let us not wait to be the next victim before we start lifting a finger. Remember, our future is at stake.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

Suggestions Galore

DEAR Editor,

I truly admire your newspaper. It gives me information on things and I get entertained as well. I even showed JI to my cousins. Since then, they've read JI more often than I have. Here are some suggestions.

My cousins say they wish there would be a portion for contests they can join and some coloring stuff as well. Please also bring back the information you give to the boys on their PlayStations, Gameboys, and others. You can also show a panel of the children's thoughts on your paper. With this, you can also give the children a chance to express their talents and share their opinions. Thank you for reading my letter and I hope that a simple letter like this can turn your paper from very good to excellent. I hope that you will answer my letter to give me a certainty that you have read my letter and please express your opinion as well.—PATRICIA RAMOS, St. Ignatius Village, Quezon City

Dear Patricia,

*Thank you very much for your suggestions! We'll keep them in mind in planning our issues. Please check out our sections Journals Pages, Campus News and For or By Kids. These are parts of JI where kids can send their work and get published. I'm sure you'll find that JI does have parts where kids can express themselves. Thanks again for writing!—**The Editor***

Junior Inquirer

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Junior Inquirer (JI) welcomes your views, suggestions, essays, short stories and poems. All contributions must be typewritten double-spaced on short bond paper. Contributions without a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned.

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P.O. Box 2353,
Makati Central Post Office,
1263 Makati City,
Philippines

Icky, Sticky Mud

POETRY BY JOSE MIGUE
ILLUSTRATIONS BY LYRA ABUEG GAR

There's a friend I call
Icky sticky mud
He caught my fall
Preventing a thud

Squishy sounds, he makes
And though unclean
He turns into shapes
Only I have seen

On my clothes he'd harden
But never did stain
We play in the garden
And bathe in the rain

There's a friend I call
Icky sticky mud
Though he's icky and all
He's my real best bud

Toad on t

Oh, toad on
Get out of t
A car's lights ju
Signaling yo

You moved h
Oh dazed lit
Not on the
You might get

Wonder how
Make me sound
Say, "There's n
Relax and ke

Find a slick
To challenge
You might h
And win firs

Now you've hop
Oh, silly litt
Look where
You're back on

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L TEJIDO
CELLANO

DANCING LITTLE SPROUT

Once I was in doubt

On how a plant grooves

Till this little sprout

Showed me her moves

You bring me delight

As you wiggle and shake

What a silly sight

Of rhythm you make!

I wish to also hear

The music of the rain

Sing it sweet, my dear

To my window pane

Now the heavy rain's out

I guess you're quite blessed

Oh tired little sprout

At last, you can rest!

Jomike, *19, likes writing about nature. This is his first batch of poetry. He also illustrated the books "Abot Mo Ba Ang Taïnga Mo?"and "Si Juanito Sa Panahon ng Amerikano." He is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang InK).*
Lyra *is the creator of Atomo and Weboy.*

he Road

he road
ne way!
st glowed
u away

ut, Alas!
tle toad
grass!
mowed!

you do it
like a fool
thing to it,
p cool!"

bunny
or a race
e lucky
t place

ped too far
le toad
you are
the road!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Trash It, Baby!

Two-year-old Isabella Molo is going to save the planet from the deadly clutches of . . . (gasp) unsorted trash!

BY MAE ASTRID TOBIAS

YOU would never believe what Isabella Molo can do. At the age of 2, she is already helping solve our country's garbage problem by segregating trash. And that's even before she can write the word segregate.

Where did she learn it? In school, of course. Little Isabella has started attending school last June. Aside for her reading lessons and drawing sessions, she is learning how to throw her garbage properly.

"I didn't know she can do that until her teacher told me," said Isabella's mom, Trina Lorenzo-Molo. "At school, they have been trying to teach the kids how to segregate trash."

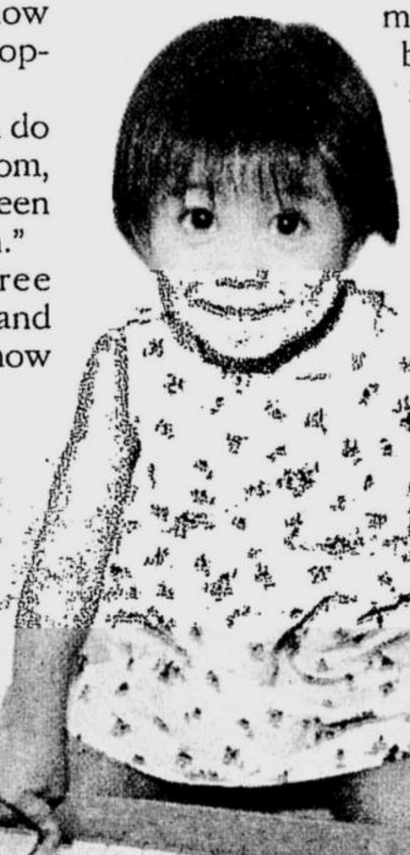
In Isabella's school, there are three wastebaskets—one for plastic, one for paper and one for organic materials. And Isabella knows how to tell one from the other. There was even a time when her teacher tried to trick her. According to Isabella's mom, her teacher gave her a piece of biscuit that was still in its plastic and asked her to throw it. Isabella went up to the three wastebaskets and looked at them.

Guess what she did next.

That's right! Isabella removed the biscuit from its plastic and threw the plastic in the plastic wastebasket and then threw the biscuit in the organic wastebasket.

Isabella is the youngest student in her class and sometimes, she is the one teaching her older classmates how to throw their garbage properly. Even at home, she shares this knowledge with her family.

"Funny thing, my daughter is the one teaching me how to segregate trash," laughs her mom.



S-E-G-R-E-G-A-T-E. You can never trick Isabella in sorting the trash. ROGER CARPIO

R RRIFIC

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid-'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

She/he lives at

_____
_____
_____

and studies at

_____

Her/his contact number is:

_____

Sender's Name:

_____

Sender's Age & School:

_____, _____

Sender's Address:

_____
_____

Sender's Contact No.

_____

Let Dad Read This:

Study says a dad's love influences kids as much as mom's love

A FATHER'S love—or the lack of it—contributes as much to the development of a child's personality and behavior as the love of a mother, researchers say. In some respects, they add, a father's love is even more influential.

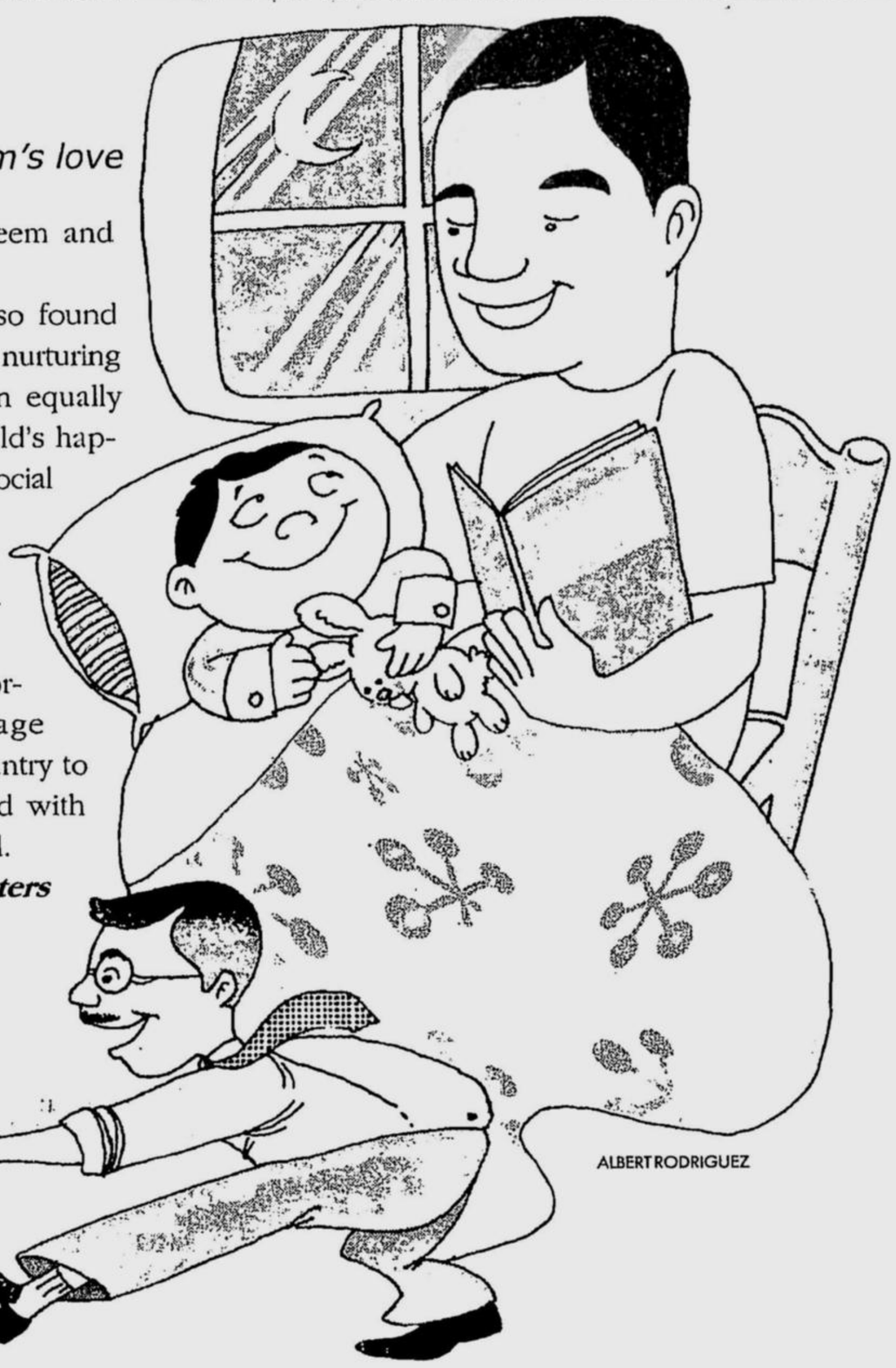
Researchers Dr. Ronald P Rohner of the University of Connecticut and his colleague Robert A. Veneziano reviewed almost 100 US and European studies investigating the effects of parenting on the psychology and behavior of children as they grew older.

The amount of love expressed by fathers and mothers is very much connected to a child's lack of self-esteem and emotional stability.

The investigators also found that having the love and nurturing of either parent has an equally positive effect on a child's happiness, well-being and social and academic success from early childhood through young adulthood.

"Hopefully, this information will encourage fathers all over the country to become more involved with their kids," Rohner said.

Reuters



ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Storytelling 'Kuya' (from page 1)

"When I get home, I fool around with them. I also tell them stories. I invent stories on the spot and scare them," he says.

Sometimes, the stories are so good, his audience asks for a replay.

"They already know it (but) I repeat it anyway," he says.

Edgar's masterpiece is a tribute to mothers working away from their families.

Edgar grew up with his *lola* and his "Mama Juliet," who is actually an aunt. Mama Juliet was an overseas Filipino worker and partly inspired the character in the story.

Before sitting down to write, it was clear to Edgar that his story would be about the "wonder of work," the ability to do every chore: laundry, cleaning, cooking.

With her amazing broom that can sweep away a million microbes, Mama Darna is a force to reckon with. We'll get to know her better (along with other new books) on July 16 for the launch on National Children's Book Day.

Eline Santos

***Editor's Note**: Artists can join the ongoing illustrator's contest. Just draw three scenes from "Uuwi na ang Nanay kong si Darna" and submit it to the PBBY Secretariat at #73 Sct. Limbaga St., Bgy Laging Handa, QC. You can call up Jen at 372-3548 to 49 for more details if you're interested.*

Life in JASMS

(from page 4)

GRADE 3 is probably one of the worst years of my life. My teacher was so strict that I hardly learned anything. It was so hard to absorb anything. So I crawled my way out of Grade 3. And well that was it.

In Grade 4, my former class was broken up. *"Watak-watak kami."* Even so, I made more friends. We also had fun. Lots of it. They taught me how to play basketball and other fun games. This is also the first time I played in the sportsfest because only Grades 4-7 students can play. There were a lot of games to compete in: basketball, volleyball, kickball (Grade 4 only), 3 on 3 basketball (women), ping pong, badminton, chess, scrabble and games of the generals.

There were four teams per level: red, green, yellow and blue. Each team had to compete in each event and had to fulfill the requirements of an event. This year I was color yellow, the name of our team was umm. . .well. . .uhhh. . .I forgot sorry but anyway I played games of the generals also called G.G. I won and became a champion. This was the start of my winning streak.

GRADE 5 was the very best year I've had! I totally love this year. It was the best of the best of the best! I joined the trip to Yapak Morong, Rizal, and I totally had loads of fun. I brought a handycam and recorded the entire trip. Also, I became champion in G.G. My color was yellow and the name of our team was "Mais con Yelo." And I had the second best teacher in the entire world! This is the main reason why I love Grade 5.

Grade 5 was really the best year I ever had. Better than Grade 4. Better than any year. But even good things come to an end, and then bad things come. Yup. I'm talking about Grade 6, the worst year of my entire life. I hardly learned anything. The only good thing that happened was I became champion in G.G. and that's a "grand slam" now.

That summer, I went to the land of the Abu Sayyaf. The plan was for me and my mother to go abroad but there was a problem with my visa, whatever that means. Anyway, my mother worked for a German TV company and she thought maybe it was a good idea if I join her.

Life/p.11

Cartoon Creators

On parade are a dozen all-time favorite cartoons. Do you know the imaginative fellow or fellows who created each of these objects of amusement?

_____1. **Powerpuff Girls**	A. **Stan Lee**
_____2. **Garfield**	B. **Jerry Siegel & Joe Schuster**
_____3. **Spiderman**	C. **Genndy Tartakovsky**
_____4. **Batman**	D. **Bob Kane**
_____5. **Scooby Doo**	E. **Pol Medina, Jr.**
_____6. **Pugad Baboy**	F. **Iwao Takamoto**
_____7. **The Simpsons**	G. **Gabor Csupo**
_____8. **Popeye**	H. **Matt Groening**
_____9. **Cesar Asar**	I. **Jim Davis**
_____10. **Rugrats**	J. **Craig MacCracken**
_____11. **Dexter's Laboratory**	K. **Roxlee & Monlee**
_____12. **Superman**	L. **E. C. Segar**

ANSWERS :

1. Craig MacCracken
2. Jim Davis
3. Stan Lee
4. Bob Kane
5. Iwao Takamoto
6. Pol Medina, Jr.
7. Matt Groening
8. E. C. Segar
9. Roxlee & Monlee
10. Gabor Csupo
11. Genndy Tartakovsky
12. Jerry Siegel & Joe Schuster

RATINGS

11 - 12

9 - 10

7 - 8

LIFE IN JASMS (from page 10)

WE TOOK the plane to Zamboanga City and meet the Germans there and stayed in a hotel, first class all the way, with a swimming pool, a bar, a coffeeshop and my favorite room service. Very expensive. There were soldiers everywhere, and bombings every day in the market, in the streets, in the malls, etc. Then she went to Jolo and stayed in Zamboanga because her friends told her not to bring me along because the Abu Sayyaf might kidnap me. And so my uncle fetched me and we boarded a ferry to Dumaguete and then Dipolog City. I lived with my cousins in Dipolog and we ate at Jollibee every day. I had my PlayStation also. Then we went back to Zamboanga City with my uncle. We took the bus to Pagadian and then from Pagadian we took a boat to Zamboanga City. There were many soldiers in the boat and in the pier because there was a report that the Abu Sayyaf planned to bomb the boat. I think I heard an explosion but I was too tired. All I want to do was go to sleep. I didn't actually meet anybody from the rebel group but it was still an experience.

THEN it was Grade 7: the really, really, really, really coolest year I've ever had. In Grade 7, a historic event unfolded. It began with a simple announcement, an announcement which suddenly shook the people and put newspapers on their heels. Luis "Chavit" Singson declared that then President Joseph "Erap" Ejercito Estrada was involved in illegal gambling. It was a big exposé. So an impeachment case was filed against Erap.

After nearly a month in the Congress, the case was filed and sent to the Senate. And so the impeachment court was put to order. This was the beginning of Erap's downfall. The impeachment trial went on for 22 days. The star witnesses who dealt a major blow on Erap were Clarissa Ocampo, Perfecto Yasay, Edgardo Espiritu and Chavit Singson.

I watched and waited for the results of the impeachment trial, but the result was not what I thought, that Erap will go to jail. Instead the impeachment trial ended in another People Power Revolution. For four days, the people gathered at the Edsa Shrine. I went there on the first and third night. Then on the afternoon of the fourth day, Erap left Malacañang Palace hours after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath as the 14th president of the Republic of the Philippines. Talk about girl power!

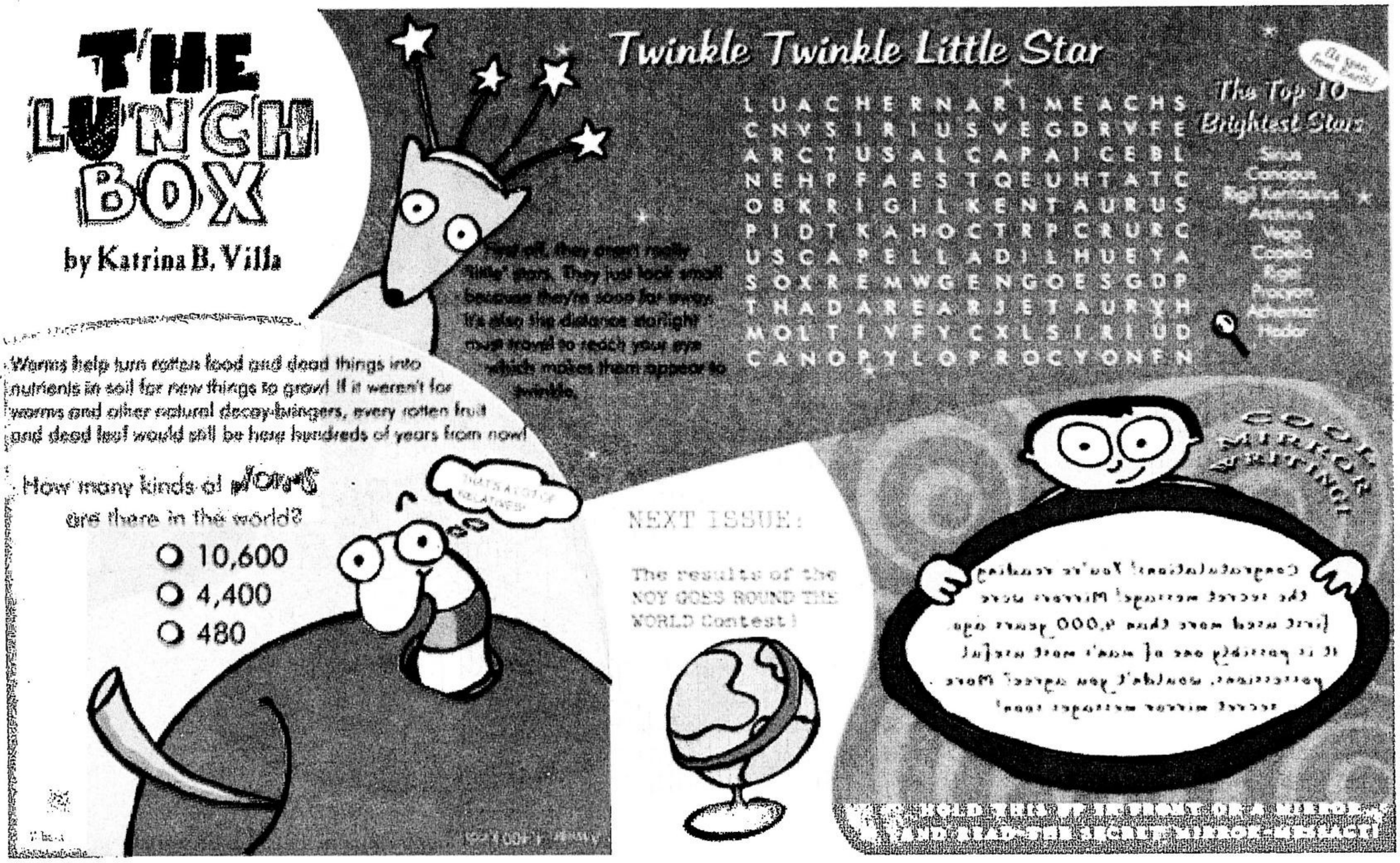
But let's talk about what happened to me. I won another trophy. I was in color green. The name of our team was "The Greench." Anyway I'm overflowing with joy that I went to Grade 7. (Special thanks to Teacher Beng!) After all the fieldtrips, lessons, activities including the graduation ball and the graduation ceremonies, I would like to thank the teachers for making sure that we the students got the proper education and that they aided us during times of trouble.

Well, these are all just flashes of me through the years. But now as I've graduated, I look back and wonder what other things are waiting for me as I face the world?

***Matikas**, 13, lives in Project 6, Quezon City.*

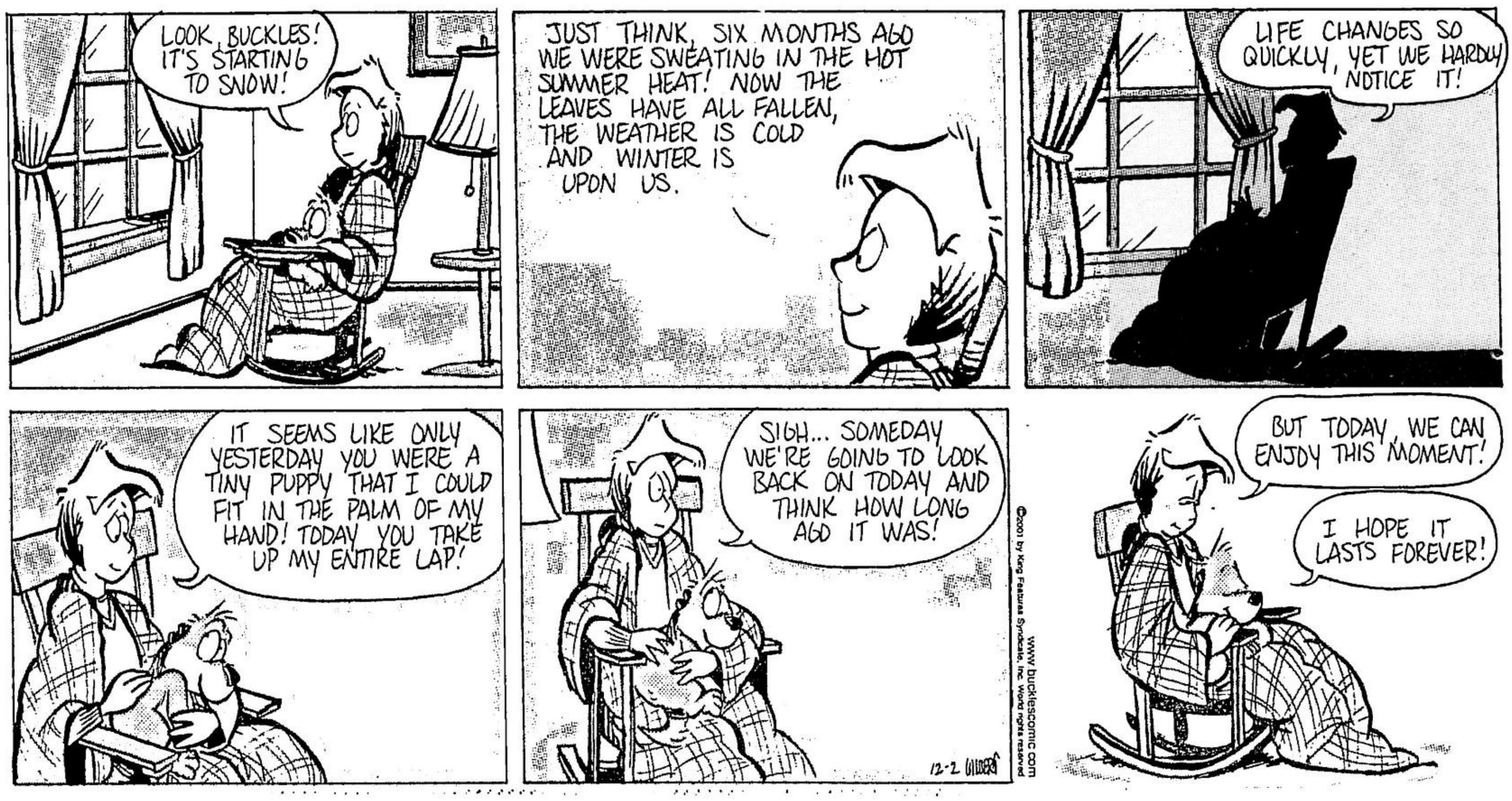
THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa



BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



THE LUNCH BOX

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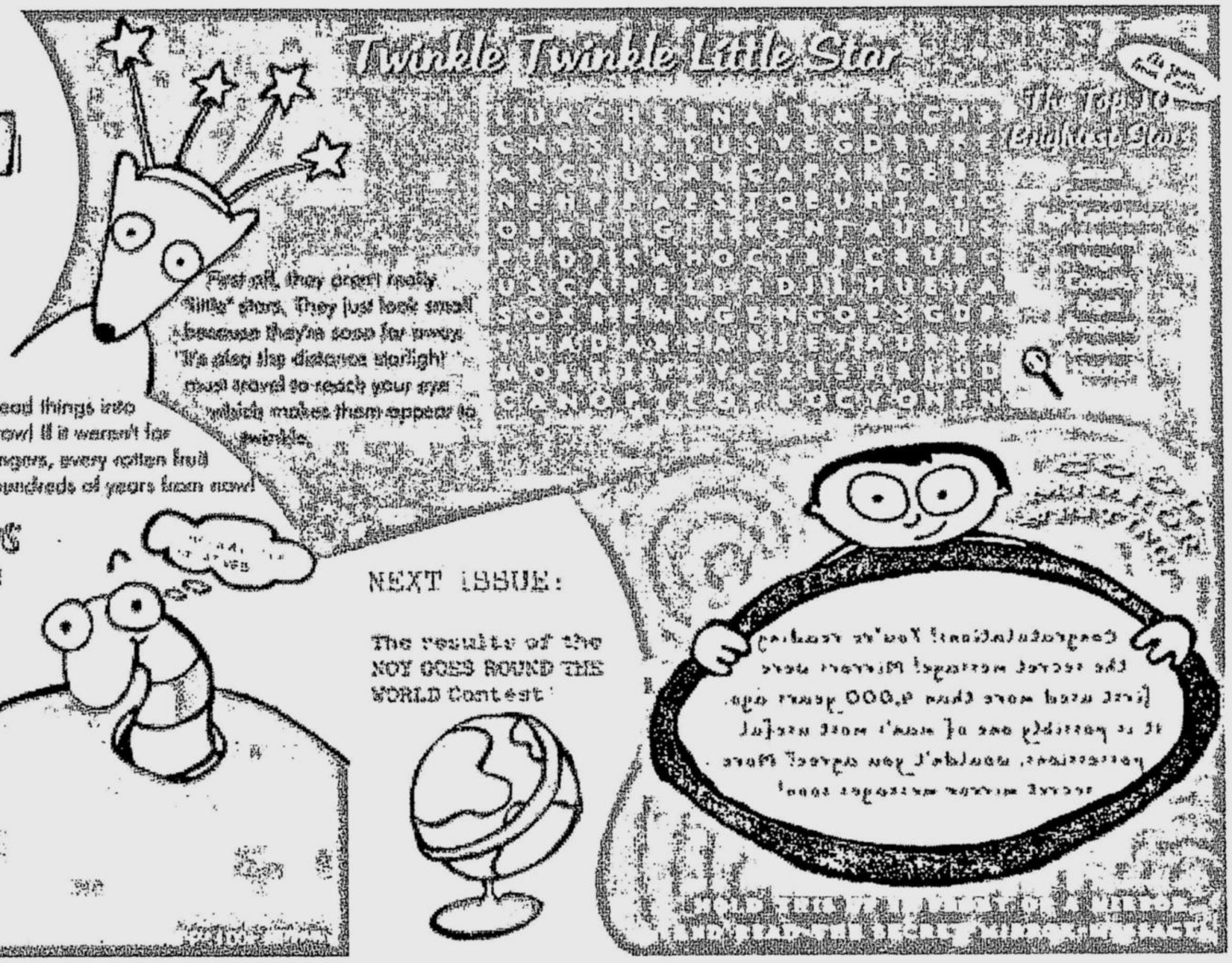

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

Gloria unfazed by drop in rating–Palace

STORY ON PAGE A3

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS
Sunday

JANUARY 13, 2002 ★ 58 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 36

IN *Sunday* LIFESTYLE

- Kitchen scenes from P5,000 per plate dinner / C1
- Wedding with Tesoro touch / E1
- Eastwood City makes your day or night / D1

TODAY IN THE INQUIRER

- The next stage for Lea Salonga
- How a Muslim rebuilt his home

SALONGA

FILIPINO OF THE YEAR 2001

HONORABLE members of the court, standing (from left): Sabino R. de Leon, Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes (who retired last September) Bernardo P. Pardo, Artemio V. Panganiban, Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Arturo B. Buena, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez. Seated (from left): Santiago M. Kapunan, Reynato S. Puno, Josue N. Bellosillo, Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr., Jose A.R. Melo, Jose C. Vitug and Vicente V. Mendoza

THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

They saved constitutional system from collapse

(Editor's Note: The Filipino of the Year applauds a living Filipino who made the most positive impact on the life of the nation in the past year. Now on its 11th year, the INQUIRER editors for the first time voted for an institution made up of the men and women of the Supreme Court.

Out of the votes of 28 editors, the high tribunal won 12, followed closely by President Macapagal-Arroyo with nine votes. The people of Edsa II got five votes; the Filipino soldier, two.

Here's why the Supreme Court bested the other worthy nominees.)

BETWEEN 6 a.m. and 12 noon on Jan. 20, 2001, the nation stood on the edge of chaos. The defection of the Armed Forces the previous day had knocked down the main pillar of the tottering government of President Joseph Estrada. The military's withdrawal of support had created an explosive power vacuum.

Frenetic negotiations between Estrada's deputies and envoys of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the constitutional successor to the presidency, over the resignation of Estrada had failed. The negotiations began past midnight of the 19th. By 6 a.m. and after five draft agreements in which Estrada

THEY/A16

Hunt for plotters begins

PNP ordered to arrest Estrada's urban poor organizer

BY TJ BURGONIO
in Manila
AND VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

POLICEMEN are under orders to arrest the leader of the pro-Estrada People's Movement against Poverty (PMAP) before he can muster a mobilization of forces on Jan. 19.

Three teams from the Philippine National Police's Intelligence Group (IG) and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group are tracking down PMAP head Ronald Lumbao, IG head Chief Supt. Robert Delfin said yesterday in a phone interview.

According to Delfin, PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza issued instructions to arrest Lumbao as early as last week. "We're now working hard to get him as soon as possible," Delfin said, adding that they were holding a warrant for Lumbao's arrest.

Mendoza himself said the PNP in Metro Manila had been put on full alert as early as Friday.

"We are beefing up personnel there with some anti-riot personnel coming from the provinces," the PNP chief said at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City. "We are doing a round-the-clock patrol of Metro Manila in preparation for the celebration of Edsa I and II."

Lumbao is among the suspected instigators of the bloody siege of Malacañang on May 1 last year. A recent intelligence report said he was among those allegedly planning a mobilization of forces in time for the government-led commemoration of the people power uprising that unseated President Joseph Estrada.

"They are still capable of generating forces, but we're ready to repulse them," Delfin said of the PMAP leaders who, he pointed out, would likely tap the same crowd that took part in the Labor Day attack on the Palace.

Eduardo Ermita, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on the

HUNT/A15

Joker most frugal solon

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

JOKER Arroyo served a full nine-year term in the House of Representatives with only a driver and a utility man under his employ, earning him the reputation of being the most frugal among the country's congressmen.

Arroyo, now a senator, in fact spent only P3.1 million in 2000—the lowest among members of the House—during his last year as congressman.

An itemized list of audited expenses incurred by the 11th Congress from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2000 showed that the average congressman's expenditure that year was P5 million.

Many members of the House at the time had expenses twice that spent by Arroyo—P6 million.

Four House members spent lower than Arroyo but that was because they did

JOKER/A15

Int'l bank, gov't sign accord on $1-B fund

THE GOVERNMENT and investment bank Lehman Brothers Asia yesterday signed an agreement to set up a $1-billion fund to finance mass housing projects in the country and help jump-start the economy.

In a joint statement, the government and Lehman Brothers Asia said the "Philippine Recovery Fund" would also acquire non-performing loans, undertake the securitization of some state assets and carry out programs to help boost the economy.

President Macapagal-Arroyo witnessed the signing of the memorandum of understanding by Finance Secretary Jose Camacho and Lehman Brothers Asia chief executive officer Jasjit Bhattal in Malacañang.

The government and Lehman Brothers Asia agreed to sign a letter of intent for a specific transaction or transactions during Ms Macapagal's scheduled visit to New York on Feb. 3.

Speaker Jose de Venecia earlier said the fund would be "all equity and targeted for development."

Through the fund, the investment bank would acquire mortgages, foreclosed real estate assets and non-performing loans of state housing agencies and financial institutions. It would then clean up these assets and sell them..

The government has been anxious to get rid of some of its deadwood assets, which it views as a

INT'L/A16

HEART OF THE JUNGLE

DENNIS SABANGAN

The Sampinit Complex in the jungles of Basilan, the former sanctuary of Abu Sayyaf bandits, is now a military base, home to the Counter Terrorist Force, the Army's 1st Scout Ranger Battalion and a contingent from the 5th Marine Battalion Landing Team. Southcom chief, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, (center) wears a victor's smile. *(Story on page A2.)*

Journey to peace began on grandma's lap

BY MARGIE MORAN-FLOIRENDO
(Manila-born, the author has become a Mindanaoan by choice. She produced "Bagong Buwan" in partnership with ABS-CBN.)

A FILM is a journey meant to enrich the lives of the people who watch it. Opinions about a movie will necessarily be as diverse. But good or bad, every film is a journey. In my case, the journey of "Bagong Buwan" began a long time ago on my grandmother's lap as she recounted stories of her youth.

My *abuelita* was born of a Spanish-American couple and grew up in a Christian community in Zamboanga. In her later years, she delighted her grandchildren with tales of the Moro, of how even the household help would be kidnapped for a measly P5. Imagine the kind of prejudice I had against the Muslims of Mindanao as I was growing up.

Tulad ni Francis, yung batang ginampanan ni Giro Manio sa pelikula, ako rin ay pinagsabihan ng lola ko na mag-ingat sa mga Muslim (Like Francis, the child played by Giro Manio in the film, I was also told by my grandmother to be wary of Muslims).

And while I am not particularly proud of the legacy of mistrust that my grandmother and others like her have left to the younger generation, still I am grateful as it provided me a starting point for my own journey.

I have been a long time resident in Mindanao and have traveled extensively throughout the island. It was only recently, however, that I had what I would call my first real exposure to the Moros. Ironically, even as I have had many occasions to visit the wonderful places where our Muslim brethren make their home, it was a visit to the military compounds of Camps Bushra and Abubakr in Maguindanao before the war commenced two-and-a-half years ago that opened my eyes to see the Moros not as people to be feared or mistrusted, but as fellow Filipinos.

Once, while traveling along the Don Narciso Ramos Highway at twilight, I saw a child whom I judged to

JOURNEY/A16

Plot to spring Nur bared

BY CHARLIE S. SEÑASE
PDI Mindanao Bureau
AND TJ BURGONIO

COTABATO CITY—An alleged member of Nur Misuari's elite force said yesterday there is a plan to rescue their jailed leader.

MacArthur Rasul, who claims to be a spokesperson of Misuari's Mutallah Force, said the group was just waiting for orders to mount the rescue operation.

Rasul told Radio Mindanao Network here that some 1,000 members of the Misuari force have been on standby and are prepared to spring their leader from detention in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, at anytime.

Misuari, charged with rebellion for the Nov. 19 mutiny staged in Jolo by his followers, is locked up at the Fort Sto. Domingo police detention facility in Sta. Rosa. His pocket rebellion and a subsequent hostage-taking situation resulted in over 100 deaths.

"Our field commanders are just waiting for orders from the higher hierarchy," Rasul said.

Rasul admitted, however, that even if there was a strong desire among Misuari's followers to free him, the plan would fail if the jailed rebel leader went against it.

"If Chairman Misuari would go against (the rescue), we cannot do otherwise (but follow) because he is our commander in chief," he said.

But while admitting to the plot, Rasul said Misuari's followers were also appealing to the Macapagal administration to free their leader. "For the sake of peace," he said.

Rasul said they could not understand why the government was so hard on Misuari when it was lenient with other leaders who revolted in the past.

"If the government was able to extend amnesty to our Christian brothers, like (former renegade Army officer Gregorio) "Gringo" Honasan and others, why can't it accord the same privilege to Chairman Misuari?" Rasul asked.

Local Government Assistant Secretary Abraham Iribani called yesterday for sobriety among Muslim leaders and Moro National Liberation Front commanders amid alleged attempts by certain groups to start a religious war over Misuari's detention.

"We should remain calm and let the law take its course," Iribani, designated government spokesperson for Misuari's case, said he told a group of Muslim leaders and MNLF commanders in a dialogue in Zamboanga City.

Irabini said he explained to them that Misuari was being held for rebellion, and not because "he was a Muslim, a member of the Bangsamoro people or an MNLF leader."

Some Moro groups had claimed Misuari's detention was an affront to the Muslim people and should be cause for a "Muslim war."

"I told them the act of rebellion happened in public and the charges were not just fabricated," Iribani said in a phone interview.

MISUARI

The local government official held a dialogue with the Muslim leaders to officially report to them Misuari's status and answer their questions about his arrest and detention.

Iribani also dismissed reports that renegade MNLF commanders were plotting to stage bomb attacks in Mindanao and Metro Manila to protest Misuari's arrest.

"That's not true," he said.

Iribani said he explained to the Muslim leaders that Misuari's personal demands, including access to the media, could not be granted because these were not within his rights as a detainee.

As this developed, the number of lawyers who will defend Misuari grew to 28, after former Davao City Mayor Benjamin de Guzman and two others agreed to serve as his counsel.

De Guzman said it was lawyer Macapanton Abbas Jr. who asked him, former vice mayor Dominador Zuño Jr. and city councilor Victorio Advincula to join the team of lawyers that would defend Misuari in court.

Misuari's other lawyers warned yesterday the country's judicial system, more than their client, will be on trial because of the legal nuances surrounding his arrest.

The deportation of Misuari by Malaysia also drew flak from opposition legislators who warned that it could trigger a reaction in the government's peace efforts.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said the prosecution of Misuari for rebellion could force the government to revive the cases against other rebel leaders, particularly of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the National Democratic Front.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel expressed the same apprehension.

Aside from the sensitive legal questions, Pimentel said there is a growing impression that Misuari could pose a security threat to the country.

Among the other members of Misuari's defense team are former Integrated Bar of the Philippines president Arthur Lim, former Court of Appeals justice Omar Amin, former labor relations commissioner Musib Buat, Salvador Panelo, US-based Elly Pamatong and former ARRM solicitor general Jose Lorena. ***With Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, contributor***

'Denial queen...'

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ AND DONNA S. CUETO

MILITANTS yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo was confusing the public on the real issue and called her "the ultimate denial queen" for denying that the government had entered into an interim agreement with controversial businessman and San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

The President the other day denied an earlier disclosure by presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao that the government had approved a planned $540-million investment by the Japan-based Kirin Brewery in SMC in exchange for Cojuangco's allowing government representatives to sit in "crucial" committees of the food and beverage conglomerate.

She said the deal did not concern just the SMC but involved a more comprehensive plan to put to use for the immediate benefit of coconut farmers the P700 million in dividends from the levy funds held by the Coconut Industry and Investment Fund.

"Tell that to the Marines. It is more than an exchange deal, it's a rabid pro-Danding decision at the expense of coconut farmers," said Manolito Serrano, spokesperson of the Pamalakaya fisherfolk group.

Under the terms of Kirin's 15 percent buy-in into SMC, the Japanese brewer has agreed to vote its shares with Cojuangco.

Various groups have objected to the Kirin deal, concerned that it would dilute the 27-percent sequestered SMC shares held by the government in trust for the country's coconut farmers.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government claims that the 27 percent shares and another 20 percent personally claimed by Cojuangco were bought with funds from the coconut levy imposed by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Cojuangco, the Marcos-appointed administrator of the funds, was also alleged to have used levy money to buy the United Coconut Planters Bank and various coconut-related assets grouped under the CIIF.

Party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said the deal should be junked because of its controversial nature and because of the protests that have erupted over it and accused Malacañang of trying to muddle the issue.

The PCGG, meanwhile, has given an assurance that the two-year "interim agreement" being worked out would not affect the litigation of the criminal and civil cases against Cojuangco and its efforts to obtain a ruling on the coco levy cases within the six month deadline given by the Supreme Court to the Sandiganbayan.

The PCGG said that P700 million in dividends from the levy funds can be utilized through the interim arrangement for the immediate benefit of small coconut farmers in the form of programs on insurance, livelihood and educational projects.

The PCGG is putting together the documentation on how these funds could be utilized this week.

"The cases (against Cojuangco and his associates) are not going to be compromised. They will continue until finally decided by the different courts," PCGG chair Haydee Yorac stressed last Friday.

The PCGG has set a two-year timetable "for allowing the courts to decide all the cases," she said.

If the courts were to decide on the cases much earlier, then this would automatically terminate the interim agreement, Yorac explained.

"If the government wins, that's it. They (the Cojuangco bloc) will be wiped out," she said on Friday.

The only reason the government is talking with Cojuangco is the concern about bringing about an "orderly transition" in the UCPB and SMC, and the need to protect the coconut farmers' interests, Yorac explained.

An orderly transition would mean that the five Macapagal, representing the 27-percent sequestered shares, would be able to sit on the SMC board before the Feb. 27, special stockholders' meeting on the SMC-Kirin deal.

Part of the reason government was entering into an interim arrangement was to maintain the monetary value of these shares, Yorac said.

Haydee smells ruse in Marcoses' offer

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE MARCOSES offer to give $30 million of their alleged ill-gotten assets to the human rights victims, but turn around and offer the same $30 million to the Presidential Commission on Good Government running after the same ill-gotten assets.

But PCGG chief Haydee Yorac smells a ruse.

"We are getting mixed signals from the Marcoses. If you get mixed signals like that, they really cancel each other out," she said.

Yorac revealed that James Linn, the US-based lawyer of Imelda Marcos, had approached her last week offering $30 million from the so-called Arelma accounts toward a compromise settlement.

The PCGG last year stumbled on a $35-million fund being held by Merrill Lynch in New York in the name of Arelma Inc., believed to be one of the foreign-registered dummy foundations set up by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to hide allegedly ill-gotten wealth.

The funds have been placed in the custody of the Honolulu court where 10,000 victims of rights abuses won a $2-billion judgment against the Marcos estate. The victims are claiming the Arelma assets as partial payment.

"He(Linn) wanted an arrangement over the $30 million of the Arelma funds. I said we're not interested in entering into a compromise agreement over so small an amount," Yorac said.

Yorac said the Marcoses had earlier said they were giving the $30 million to the human rights victims.

"I said this is strange, I thought you wanted to give it to the human rights victims," she said.

She said she told Linn to ask Imelda to see her at the PCGG so they could talk and better understand what she wanted.

Yorac said that the PCGG was not willing to hand over the $30 million to the rights victims as its position is that the funds were ill-gotten wealth and thus government funds.

She said that while the PCGG was willing to give $200 million to the human rights victims if the government gets a hold of the Marcos wealth, it cannot forego its claim on the $30 million.

"The conceptual basis of Judge Real's (the Honolulu judge) judgment is that it is the private wealth of the Marcoses," she said.

"We are not prepared to concede that," Yorac said.

The PCGG chief said the agency was also not budging from its position that the Marcoses must comply with four conditions before it agrees on a compromise settlement.

These are: full disclosure of all Marcos assets worldwide; placing all these assets immediately under the control of the Philippine government; a universal settlement binding all persons with legal interest in or are legal heirs of Ferdinand Marcos; and an apology from the Marcoses to the Filipino people.

... And king

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

CAUGHT with his foot in his mouth, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday denied that President Macapagal-Arroyo had denied his statement.

And he maintained he is still on the same wavelength as the President.

Tiglao insisted he had correctly announced the government's "interim agreement" with San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

"She did not say that I made a mistake," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Contrary to Tiglao's prior announcement, Ms Macapagal on Friday said the interim agreement was "not related to San Miguel." She made the announcement in Tiglao's presence.

To the surprise of reporters, she said the agreement was for the use of the interest generated by coco levy assets under the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF).

Tiglao had explicitly said on Wednesday that the interim agreement covered San Miguel.

He said the deal provides that Ms Macapagal's nominees would sit in the board of directors and in crucial committees.

In return, the government will drop its opposition to the SMC-Kirin deal and Cojuangco will continue to run the firm.

Tiglao yesterday said that what the President was denying was an interim agreement with Cojuangco about the coco levy funds.

"She is referring to the coco levy (cases in court). There can be agreement on the coco levy," he said.

He added that he had no dispute with Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, who also denied Tiglao's announcement.

He said Yorac was correct when she denied that an interim agreement had already been reached.

"I said there was an agreement in principle. Haydee was referring to the actual document," he said.

AFP troops pitch camp in Abu lair

BY JULIE S. ALIPALA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SUMISIP, Basilan—It took years for the military to penetrate the Sampinit complex, the center of Abu Sayyaf operations on this island, but this did not deter soldiers and their commanders from sporting wide grins last Friday.

That was the day Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu escorted members of the media to a newly established military jungle base in the complex, the former sanctuary of the homegrown Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

Cimatu admitted it was the first time he set foot in Sampinit, which is about 25 minutes by helicopter from the Army's 103rd Brigade headquarters in Barangay Tabiawan here.

"This used to be the Abu Sayyaf's sanctuary," Cimatu said as he trained his eyes on the areas surrounding the jungle base.

The base, which Cimatu said is now the center of anti-Abu Sayyaf operations on the island, houses the Counter Terrorist Force, the Army's 1st Scout Ranger Battalion and a contingent from the 5th Marine Battalion Landing Team.

Cimatu said the military will soon be making further improvements at the complex, including the establishment of a fresh water supply system.

Col. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said soldiers stationed at the new base will also be provided with additional clothing.

Temperatures at Sampinit, which is in a jungle, normally drops by 10 to 15 degrees by 1 p.m.

The complex was where Khadaffy Janjalani and Abu Sabaya, leaders of the tiny ragtag rebel band, directed operations against the military and planned their kidnapping activities.

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BOARD TOPNOTCHERS

Xenia Grace Cueto	-	5th Place
Charice C. Dumogho	-	7th Place
Cherrie Anne L. Cruz	-	9th Place

And All the Successful Examinees in the Recent Interior Design Board Examination

Alonzo, Katrina Jessica	Hernandez, Anna Leah
Alvar, Adelyn	Hernandez, Hilda
Amaranto, Maria Elaine	Jamias, Josephine
Austria, Melanie	Lacuna, Kathrina
Bangayan, Rosemarie	Lazana, Leah Marie
Bariso, Abigail	Lee, Sharon
Basbas, John Gabriel	Magcanan, Andre
Benesa, Mary Joyce	Magsuci, Michelle
Cartera, Ma. Pristine	Manicad, Ma. Leslie
Cepe, Sheila Marie	Masa, Elsie Marie
Chua, Charlene Natalie	Nabiula, Marie Joyce
Chua, Shamin	Ong, Jenice Joyce
Concepcion, Gemiliano	Ordinario, Mylene
Cruz, Cherry Anne	Padron, Darius
Cue, Jackson	Padua, Yvette
Cueto, Xenia Grace	Reyes, Rochelle
Dayrit, Wilan Bilmarc	Samson, Maria Cherryl
Diaz, April	Sin, Kathleencion
Dumogho, Charice	Sowy, Stella Marie
Dy, Dewey Jr.	Subang, Kristin
Dy, Doris Anne	Tagama Charlotte
Francisco, Psalm	Torres, Milagrosa Luisa
Guinto, Joanne Christine	Wong, Glynis Ginger

The Interior Design Department of UST College of Fine Arts and Design will offer a Board Examination Review starting April 1 until June 7, 2002.
For inquiries, interested parties may contact Prof. Gil Santos at Tel. No. 740-9703 or cell phone number 0916-3976649

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Gloria not alarmed by drop in rating–Palace

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is not alarmed by the latest Pulse Asia Inc. survey that showed a decline in her public approval rating.

The President acknowledged, however, that she has to "work harder" and be "more aggressive" in the media department.

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Pulse Asia said her ratings dropped in all geographic areas and through all socio-economic classes, most notably in Metro Manila.

"It's not that alarming," the President's spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, said yesterday.

Tiglao pointed out that the President still enjoys a majority approval rating.

"We take (the survey results) as a guidepost to work harder," he said. "We also have to be more aggressive in our information campaign."

Referring to the President's dip in popularity in Metro Manila, Tiglao attributed this to the metropolis' residents being more "media-driven" than the rest of the country.

"Metro Manila is sensitive to political developments," he said.

The survey also showed a general dip in the approval ratings of all Cabinet members.

But, Tiglao said, none of them had a negative approval rating.

The drop in Ms Macapagal's approval rating is a portent of things to come in the 2004 presidential elections, the militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said yesterday.

"This is the beginning of Macapagal's end—the end of her ambition to become a back-to-back President come 2004," Pamalakaya said in a statement.

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz said the President would not likely win election in 2004, "for her betrayal of People Power II and her display of political arrogance and banditry."

"She cannot bounce back unless she remains true to the sentiments of the people," Corpuz said.

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Beltran, who also chairs the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno, said that in the coming weeks, the President's approval rating will drop drastically as her government continues to be bombarded not only by scandalous allegations, but by protest rallies.

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"The true forces behind People Power II will boycott the gathering—the workers, farmers, urban poor, youth and students and other sectors that worked to bring down the Estrada presidency," he said.

Pulse Asia attributed the drop in the President's approval rating to the perceived deterioration of the standard of living across all socio-economic classes.

For failing to deliver on her promises to the people, Ms Macapagal's term would be cut short before 2004, and if she survives, she would not be elected to the presidency, Pamalakaya's Corpuz predicted.

"The people would not entertain second thoughts about ousting her before 2004 or rejecting her through the ballots," he said.

Pamalakaya rejected the President's call for a dialogue with groups critical of her administration, saying this would be a waste of time.

"Rejection becomes her. What's the use of talking to a white elephant and certified anti-people President? She's a big disappointment, nothing more, nothing less," Corpuz said. *With Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, contributor*

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Vendors make more money, reporters told

By Armand N. Nocum

ONE could just hear the exodus from newsrooms now. "You can look out the window—the banana cue vendors and street hawkers make more than you do."

This is what Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas told news reporters yesterday by way of stressing the point that Filipinos should concentrate on creating jobs for themselves, rather than just wait around for one.

Sto. Tomas said she talked to the ambulant vendors selling varied foodstuffs, like fishballs and eggrolls, outside the Department of Labor and Employment offices in Intramuros, Manila, and learned that they netted about P600 a day.

On a five-day work week, the vendors average some P12,000 per month, definitely higher than a reporter's starting salary.

But more than that, Sto. Tomas said, the vendors have banded together to form a cooperative—the Intramuros Vendors and Hawkers Association—and now have millions of pesos in a revolving fund.

"We should start shifting paradigms," the labor secretary said, emphasizing that people should concentrate on creating small-enterprise jobs in their own homes, rather than look for work that would entail their going to an office every day.

Sto. Tomas said this was the only way people could cope with the worsening unemployment situation caused by the global financial crisis.

The DOLE announced earlier that a total of 186 firms have filed notices for closure, threatening the jobs of 3,921 workers.

The DOLE, she said, will soon launch a program to create "poverty-free zones" in the country.

She said the DOLE will look for at least two areas in each region where the incidence of poverty is high.

The department will then see what resources are abundant in the area and create an enterprise out of these.

"If the area is near the sea, we could help local residents can and export sardines," Sto. Domingo said. She said the DOLE has earmarked P1 million for each zone.

She said that for two years, the DOLE will train the local people, help them put up the facilities for an enterprise, teach them quality control, and market the products, before leaving them to run the ventures by themselves.

Sto. Tomas said the objective of the program is not only to help people create employment, but to show them that they could avail of the resources in their own areas to improve their lives.

"We should not just look to the government for help. It can't be there forever," she said.

It was not known how many reporters left the briefing to price fishball carts.

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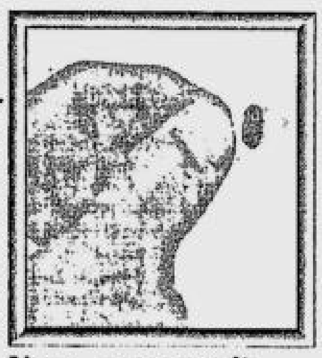
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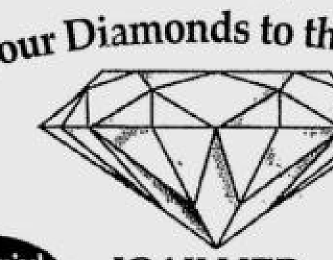
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Creating Waves through Powerful Communication in this highly Competitive World
SPEAKER: RENE SAN LUIS RESURRECCION
Entrepreneur Training Specialist
Passion for Perfection Consultancy, President
Master in Development Studies,
Institute of Social, Hague, Netherlands (1986)
10:00-12:00 NN

THE POWER BEHIND THE GLOBAL IMAGE
Projecting the Image in a Global Setting
SPEAKER: JULIA ROBILLOS, AICI, CDI
Professional Image Consultants International, President
Fashion and Corporate Image Consultant, Color Analyst
AICI New York & Colour Designers International, CA. USA, Chapter Member
The Only Certified Filipino Color Analyst with CEU's in Image Consulting
12:00-2:00 PM

FINANCIAL BREAKTHROUGH
Unfolding the Key to Financial Inversion Towards Getting Rich
SPEAKER: ANTHONY T. LIM
Highly Successful Business Proprietor
Genesis Group of Companies, President
DLSU, Bachelor of Science and Business Administration
Author and Publisher of "True Riches" Volume I-VII
2:00-4:00 PM

THE QUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE
Empowering Excellence in the Workforce
SPEAKER : MICHAEL STEVEN
New York City Business College, NY, NY (1964-66)
Wharton Sch. Of Business. Philadelphia, Pensylvania, (1962-64
American Int'l. Group, NY, USA, Former Gen. Manager for Canada
INS HRDC, Senior French Consultant
Foreign Funding of Special Projects,
4:00-6:00 PM

THE MAKINGS OF A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE
How to Successfully Organize Company Productivity Strategies at Par with Int'l. Standards to Intensify & Unleash Employees' Potentials Towards Greater Company Returns
SPEAKER: PROFESSOR JOHN TAN
International Speaker and Management Consultant
University of Maryland Graduate School (Master's & Doctoral)
Asian Institute of Management (Associate Professor, (1985-87)
DLSU Graduate Scholl of Business, Psychology, & Masteral Program in Industrial Psychology (Associate Professor, 1994-Present)
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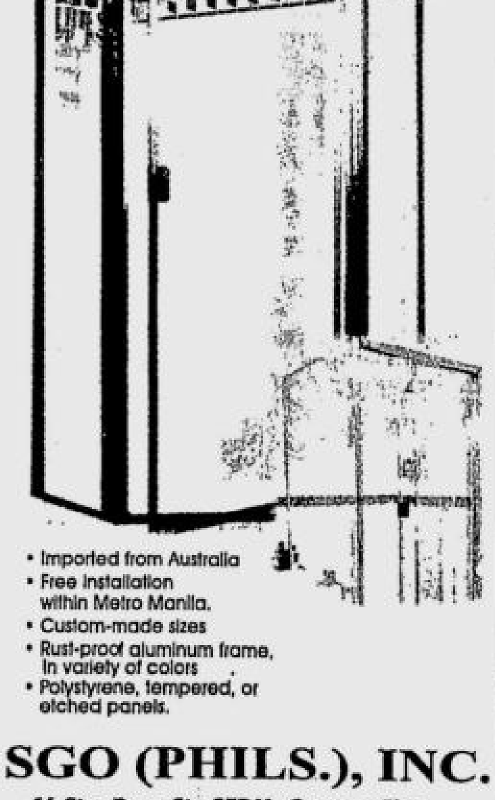
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More than 4M Filipinos have High Blood Pressure (Hypertension): Could you be one of them?

According to the Department of Health (DOH), over 4 million Filipinos have high blood pressure or hypertension. And hypertension, according to an expert at the Philippine Heart Center, is the leading cause of cardiovascular disease -- the number one killer in the Philippines. Nine Filipinos die from cardiovascular disease every hour, according to the DOH. Could you be one of the 4 million Filipinos who have high blood pressure without knowing they have it?

High blood pressure is called the silent killer because it often has no obvious symptoms. While some people may experience headaches, fatigues, dizziness and frequent nosebleeds, others may have the disease for years without feeling anything. And, according to the Mayo Clinic, if you're one of the few who have the symptoms, your high blood pressure may have advanced to a higher stage -- one that's possibly life-threatening. However, many people with the highest blood pressure do not experience any of these symptoms.

The absence of symptoms, however, doesn't mean nothing is happening. High blood pressure causes your heart to work harder in pumping blood to your arteries. Over time, the excessive force can damage your arterids, heart, brain and other organs. Furthermore, uncontrolled blood pressure puts you at an increased risk for stroke,heart attack, heart failure and kidney failure.

Taking your Blood Pressure

Fortunately, high blood pressure can be detected with a simple, non-invasive procedure of taking your blood pressure. You can visit your doctor on a regular basis and have him/her take your blood pressure. You can also go to places that offer a blood pressure apparatus for use by the public. But, keep in mind, that your blood pressure varies depending on how feel, what you've been doing right before the test, and the time of the day.

Also, keep in mind that the diagnosis of hypertension should not be made on the basis of a single measurement by anyone. "Get three or four readings before you accept the hypertensive label. And equally important, a normal reading at any time is no guarantee that it's going to stay normal. You've got to keep the checking regularly to detect an elevation as soon as it occurs," warned Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld on the New York Hospital.

Buying a digital blood pressure apparatus for home use will allow you to take your own blood pressure readings, at the same time each day, in the comfort of your home. You will be more able to monitor your readings closely and possibly see a trend more quickly. If your blood pressure readings are consistently pressure are consistently high, then you know you may have high blood pressure and should consult your doctor.

Your Blood Pressure Readings

A blood pressure reading consists of two numbers - the systolic and diastolic. The systolic is the peak pressure reached when your heart contracts and pumps blood out through your arteries to your body's tissues and organs. The diastolic is the pressure when your heart is at rest, refilling with blood in between beats.

The average normal systolic/diastolic adult blood pressure is 120/80 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg). Keep in mind these numbers vary with activity and are higher during exercise and lower when at rest. But, when blood pressure is consistently more than 140/90mm Hg at rest, High blood pressure is diagnosed (see table below).

Condition	Systolic (mm Hg)	Diastolic (mm Hg)
Normal	Less than 130	Less than 85
High Normal	130-139	85-89
High Blood Pressure	Greater than or equal to 140	Greater than or equal to 90

Source: Mayo Clinic

Editor's Note: For home use, we recommend the **Meditec Fuzzy Automatic Blood Pressure Monitors** which uses fuzzy logic technology to give you an easier, faster and gentler way of getting your blood pressure. **Meditec Blood Pressure Monitors** are now available at all **Mercury Drug stores** nationwide. *For more information pls. call:* Medical Center Trading Corp., Pioneer St., Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City Tels.: 631-1715 • 631-9355 • 637-9504 Fax: (0632) 631-7869 E-mail: medcen@info.com.ph

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Gloria not alarmed by drop in rating–Palace

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND TJ BURGONIO

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BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

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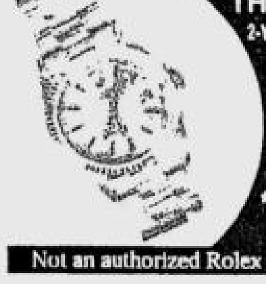

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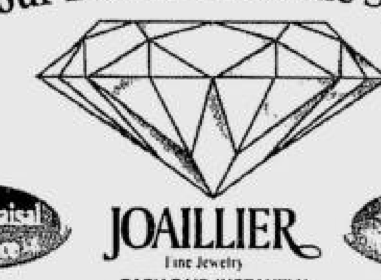

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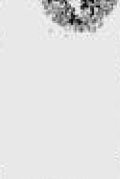
S P E A K E R S

THE IMPACT OF DYNAMIC COMMUNICATION IN THE WORKPLACE
Creating Waves through Powerful Communication in this highly Competitive World
SPEAKER: RENE SAN LUIS RESURRECCION
Entrepreneur Training Specialist
Passion for Perfection Consultancy, President
Master in Development Studies,
Institute of Social, Hague, Netherlands (1986)
10:00-12:00 NN



THE POWER BEHIND THE GLOBAL IMAGE
Projecting the Image in a Global Setting
SPEAKER: JULIA ROBILLOS, AICI, CDI
Professional Image Consultants International, President
Fashion and Corporate Image Consultant, Color Analyst
AICI New York & Colour Designers International, CA. USA, Chapter Member
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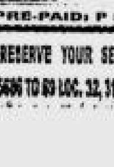
12:00-2:00 PM

FINANCIAL BREAKTHROUGH
Unfolding the Key to Financial Inversion Towards Getting Rich
SPEAKER: ANTHONY T. LIM
Highly Successful Business Proprietor
Genesis Group of Companies, President
DLSU, Bachelor of Science and Business Administration
Author and Publisher of "True Riches" Volume I-VII
2:00-4:00 PM

THE QUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE
Empowering Excellence in the Workforce
SPEAKER : MICHAEL STEVEN
New York City Business College, NY, NY (1964-66)
Wharton Sch. Of Business, Philadelphia, Pensylvania, (1962-64
American Int'l. Group, NY, USA, Former Gen. Manager for Canada
INS HRDC, Senior French Consultant
Foreign Funding of Special Projects,
4:00-6:00 PM



THE MAKINGS OF A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE
How to Successfully Organize Company Productivity Strategies at Par with Int'l. Standards to Intensify & Unleash Employees' Potentials Towards Greater Company Returns
SPEAKER: PROFESSOR JOHN TAN
International Speaker and Management Consultant
University of Maryland Graduate School (Master's & Doctoral)
Asian Institute of Management (Associate Professor, (1985-87)
DLSU Graduate Scholl of Business, Psychology, & Masteral Program in Industrial Psychology (Associate Professor, 1994-Present)
6:00-8:00 PM

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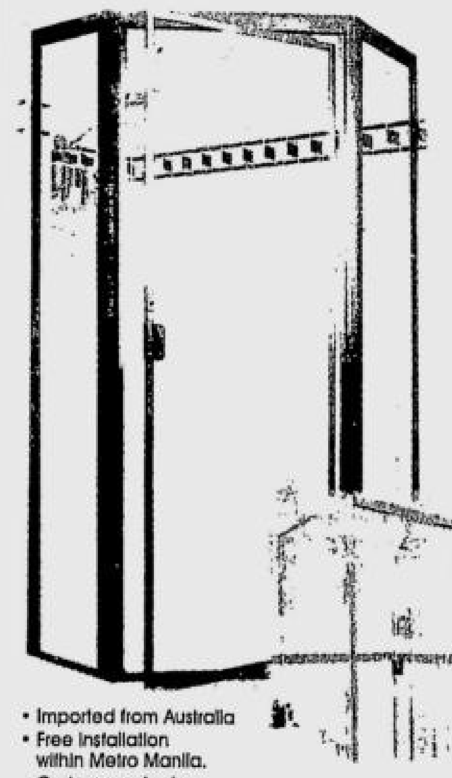

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WE ACCEPT PROVINCIAL JOBS AND INSTALLATION

More than 4M Filipinos have High Blood Pressure (Hypertension): Could you be one of them?

According to the Department of Health (DOH), over 4 million Filipinos have high blood pressure or hypertension. And hypertension, according to an expert at the Philippine Heart Center, is the leading cause of cardiovascular disease -- the number one killer in the Philippines. Nine Filipinos die from cardiovascular disease every hour, according to the DOH. Could you be one of the 4 million Filipinos who have high blood pressure without knowing they have it?

High blood pressure is called the silent killer because it often has no obvious symptoms. While some people may experience headaches, fatigues, dizziness and frequent nosebleeds, others may have the disease for years without feeling anything. And, according to the Mayo Clinic, if you're one of the few who have the symptoms, your high blood pressure may have advanced to a higher stage -- one that's possibly life-threatening. However, many people with the highest blood pressure do not experience any of these symptoms.

The absence of symptoms, however, doesn't mean nothing is happening. High blood pressure causes your heart to work harder in pumping blood to your arteries. Over time, the excessive force can damage your arteries, heart, brain and other organs. Furthermore, uncontrolled blood pressure puts you at an increased risk for stroke,heart attack, heart failure and kidney failure.

Taking your Blood Pressure

Fortunately, high blood pressure can be detected with a simple, non-invasive procedure of taking your blood pressure. You can visit your doctor on a regular basis and have him/her take your blood pressure. You can also go to places that offer a blood pressure apparatus for use by the public. But, keep in mind, that your blood pressure varies depending on how feel, what you've been doing right before the test, and the time of the day.

Also, keep in mind that the diagnosis of hypertension should not be made on the basis of a single measurement by anyone. "Get three or four readings before you accept the hypertensive label. And equally important, a normal reading at any time is no guarantee that it's going to stay normal. You've got to keep the checking regularly to detect an elevation as soon as it occurs," warned Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld on the New York Hospital.

Buying a digital blood pressure apparatus for home use will allow you to take your own blood pressure readings, at the same time each day, in the comfort of your home. You will be more able to monitor your readings closely and possibly see a trend more quickly. If your blood pressure readings are consistently pressure are consistently high, then you know you may have high blood pressure and should consult your doctor.

Your Blood Pressure Readings

A blood pressure reading consists of two numbers - the systolic and diastolic. The systolic is the peak pressure reached when your heart contracts and pumps blood out through your arteries to your body's tissues and organs. The diastolic is the pressure when your heart is at rest, refilling with blood in between beats.

The average normal systolic/diastolic adult blood pressure is 120/80 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg). Keep in mind these numbers vary with activity and are higher during exercise and lower when at rest. But, when blood pressure is consistently more than 140/90mm Hg at rest, High blood pressure is diagnosed (see table below).

Condition	Systolic (mm Hg)	Diastolic (mm Hg)
Normal	Less than 130	Less than 85
High Normal	130-139	85-89
High Blood Pressure	Greater than or equal to 140	Greater than or equal to 90

Source: Mayo Clinic

Editor's Note: For home use, we recommend the **Meditec Fuzzy Automatic Blood Pressure Monitors** which uses fuzzy logic technology to give you an easier, faster and gentler way of getting your blood pressure. **Meditec Blood Pressure Monitors** are now available at all **Mercury Drug stores** nationwide. *For more information pls. call:* Medical Center Trading Corp., Pioneer St., Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City Tels.: 631-1715 • 631-9355 • 637-9504 Fax: (0632) 631-7869 E-mail: medcen@info.com.ph

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Quit, bypassed Cabinet men urged

Pimentel cites Rodriguez for 'sense of delicadeza'

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

SENATE Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel yesterday advised Cabinet members who have been repeatedly bypassed by the Commission on Appointments to follow the example of former immigration commission Rufus Rodriguez, who resigned so as not to embarrass President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Rodriguez, who was appointed as the country's ambassador to Germany, announced recently that he had asked the President not to reappoint him again due to his failure to get the confirmation.

Pimentel said he admired Rodriguez for his sense of propriety and decency by not insisting on his reappointment to spare the President of another problem. Rodriguez had cited "delicadeza" as his reason for not seeking reappointment.

"Mr. Rodriguez's selfless gesture deserves praise because it shows there are still people who have a sense of 'delicadeza'," he said. "What he did should serve as an example to people similarly situated."

The senator said the gesture of Rodriguez should put pressure on Cabinet members who have been bypassed a number of times by the CA to give up their posts voluntarily.

Malacañang has submitted to the commission a list of Cabinet members and government officials who have been re-appointed for confirmation.

Among the Cabinet officials, only Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez were not included.

But officials can still submit their nominations before the commission resumes its deliberations on certain appointments. Congress will resume its session tomorrow.

Pimentel compared the Cabinet members who have been repeatedly bypassed by the CA to hopeless heart patients after repeatedly undergoing heart bypass or surgery.

"Perhaps the message imparted by Mr. Rodriguez's act was you should know when your time is up and don't put the President in an awkward situation," Pimentel said.

It was learned that Pimentel and Rodriguez are neighbors in Cagayan de Oro City.

Pimentel said Rodriguez, who was identified with the political opposition, was the only Macapagal-appointed ambassadors who was not confirmed by the CA.

"The fact that they did not so showed that they refused to inject partisanship into their task of reviewing the qualifications of presidential appointees," he said.

The appointment of Rodriguez was bypassed when the CA was requested by Sen. Ralph Recto to defer action on his nomination.

A former dean of the San Sebastian College of Law, Rodriguez served as lawyer of opposition Sen. Loi Ejercito Estrada and the Puwersa ng Masa.

As such, he caused the deduction from Recto's vote count a huge number of votes believed to have been padded in the May 14, 2001 senatorial election.

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Warning aired on 'magic sugar'

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

SENATE President Pro Tempore Manny Villar yesterday asked customs officials to stop the entry here of the so-called "magic sugar," an artificial sweetener, from China and Indonesia as this has proven to cause cancer.

Villar said the product has been banned by the Bureau of Food and Drugs, but has managed to enter the country via Mindanao.

"Customs officials in all possible points of entry must be on guard against this very dangerous product that threatens the health of Filipinos," he said.

Villar, who chairs the Senate committee on food and agriculture, said that while the "magic sugar" may be cheaper than normal sugar, its health risks far outweigh its low price.

"The amount that you will save is not worth the risk to one's health," Villar said. "Of what use is the money that you will save if you face the risk of getting cancer?"

According to Villar, studies showed that 20 kilos of the artificial sweetener is equivalent to 20 sacks of sugar.

He said that the widespread use of this product would be detrimental to the country's sugar farmers and producers.

Villar said the entry of this kind of sugar should be stopped immediately because it poses serious problems.

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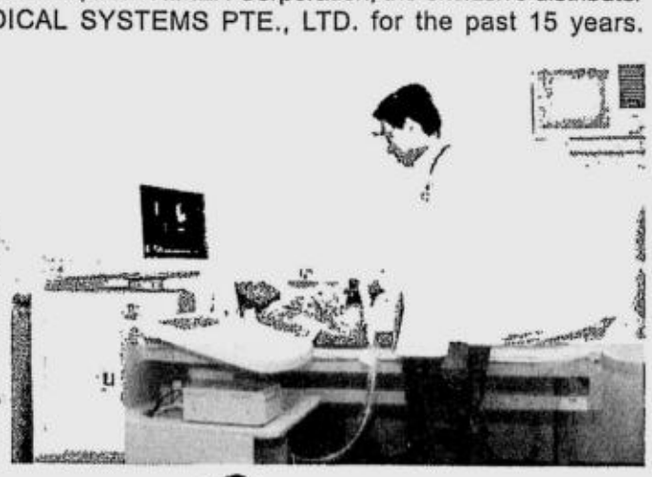

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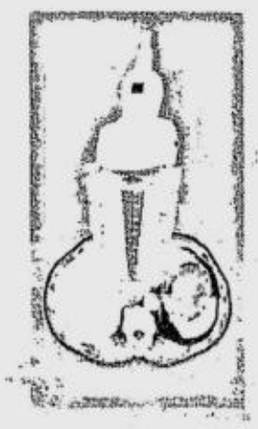

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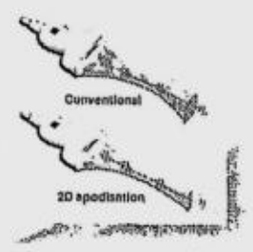

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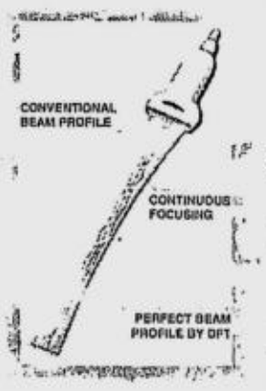

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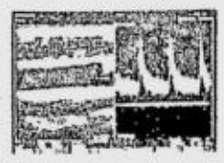

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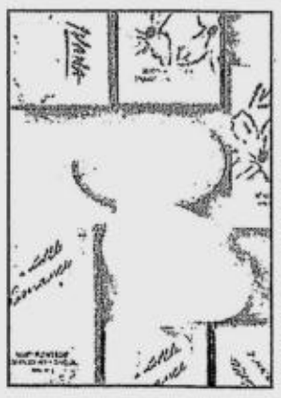

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Foot in mouth

EDITORIAL

IT must have seemed like such a good idea at the time. Shortly after the composite Task Force Marsha collapsed under the weight of "self-confessed" killer Philip Medel's overwrought recantation, the National Bureau of Investigation appointed an official spokesperson. The idea, apparently, was to manage public perception of the NBI's handling of high-profile cases by centralizing the flow of information. It has not turned out that way. Worse, the new arrangement has begun to deteriorate into a civil-liberties nightmare.

It is only fair to point out that Task Force Marsha was led by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police; that the Nida Blanca case is not the only case that the NBI—or the PNP, for that matter—is working on; that other NBI officials have on occasion continued to make themselves available to the media and in fact the flow of information from the agency has by and large been successfully centralized.

But having imposed a system, the NBI now finds itself being imposed upon by the same system. Having appointed a spokesperson, and followed a relatively regular schedule, it now finds itself bound to report something new every day.

As any student of criminology knows, this hardly makes for an ideal environment in which to conduct an investigation—any investigation. Intense media attention merely reflects intense public interest in sensational crimes. It should not be allowed to color the evaluation of a crime scene, the sourcing of clues, the sifting of evidence, the identification of suspects, the very course of the investigation. Above all, it should not be used as an excuse to lower the constitutional standard governing a fundamental civil liberty: every person's absolute right to be presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

But the NBI's foot-in-mouth brand of public relations has done precisely that.

A police investigation, let us remind ourselves again, is equal parts instinct and method, intuition and science. The science comes primarily in the search for facts—"leads," to borrow the language of crime investigators—to test hypotheses (or "theories"). The testing continues until the theory that best fits the available facts emerges. The problem comes when every new fact and every new theory is treated as a "development"—that is, as a unit of news.

Facing the media every day and announcing "the latest developments" work only in the first few days of a case, when the contour of a new crime is still beginning to take shape, and the major details—identities, circumstances, the testimony of the first witnesses—start to assume a recognizable form. But experience and the laws of probability tell us that there simply cannot be daily developments in long-running cases.

To act as if this were so is to insult the public's intelligence and to undermine one's credibility. Yes, there is an almost bottomless demand for any scrap of new information. Yes, there is the need to meet the public's right to know. Yes, there is the essential requirement to hold the NBI and similar agencies accountable for their work. But in meeting these needs, the basics of good police work must not be thrown out the window.

There is also, we must remind the NBI and ourselves, the overriding need to see that justice is done. And justice is ill-served when a new fact is trotted out, or a new unconfirmed theory announced, simply to assure the public that the NBI continues to be working on the case. Take, for instance, the series of confusing statements about the three women dropped off in Blanca's house in Quezon City in the middle of the same night she was killed. These developments, dutifully announced, only inflamed the public's already swollen sense of skepticism. (As it turns out, the house belonged to another person.) Thus, on the level of public relations alone, the practice of announcing daily developments fails even to meet the main objective: managing the public's expectations.

But on a higher level, the practice violates the principle of the presumption of innocence. By putting the spotlight on person after person, and then saying that it cannot yet rule out anything, and that it has not yet cleared anybody, the NBI has in effect made everybody a suspect. Because of its need to continue talking, the agency has telegraphed a chilling message: one is guilty unless otherwise proven innocent.

Justice in dreamland

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AS another year begins, it is pertinent to ask: How much longer will it take to decide the hundreds, if not thousands of cases that have been slumbering in our courts? Many impatient litigants have been invoking the old saw that justice delayed is justice denied, but to no avail. Apparently, the Supreme Court itself will have no truck with this trite reminder if its track record is any indication.

True, it recently placed Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena of the Sandiganbayan on indefinite leave so he could dispose of his personal backlog of cases that had accumulated over the years. As of October 2000, according to his own report, there were as many as 415 cases in the court that had remained undecided way beyond the reglementary period. Four-fifths of all the pending cases are assigned to the first division, which he heads.

Many unresolved cases involve Imelda Marcos and her co-heirs and business cronies, who naturally have not been heard to complain about the long delay. As of Sept. 1, 2001, the PCGG was a party to more than 50 of such cases before the Sandiganbayan and to more than 60 cases before the Supreme Court. Most of these are still awaiting decision although some were filed as early as 1986 and 1987, 15 or so years ago.

Meanwhile, Imelda Marcos is as free as a bird despite the seriousness of the charges against her and was even allowed to leave for Hong Kong during the Christmas shopping season. Her reason was that she wanted to avail herself of "alternative Oriental medicine" for her various ailments, including an injury to her head. The Sandiganbayan believed that there must really be something wrong with her head and granted permission.

Lawyers and even law students are aware of the mandatory constitutional periods for the decision of cases: 24 months for the Supreme Court, 12 months unless further reduced by the Supreme Court for lower collegiate courts, and three months for other lower courts. These rules are more honored in the breach than in the observance. The Supreme Court has every now and then castigated judges for sitting on their cases, but it is not cracking its administrative whip often and sharply enough.

Among the reasons for the sluggish decision of cases are the lack of judges in some stations and the heavy caseload of courts in the urban centers. But the more obvious causes are the indolence of many irresponsible judges and the lack of management skills on the part of others in systematically scheduling, trying and deciding their cases within the allotted time.

In fairness to the lower courts, it should be observed that the high tribunal is no paragon of speedy justice either. Many of its cases have not moved fast enough although it now meets only once a week *en banc* unlike during our time, when we met twice in division and twice *en banc* to increase our output. The ultimate in judicial sloth is the case of Flores v. People, 61 SCRA 331, which started in 1951 and was finally dismissed in 1974, after a delay of 23 years. The case hibernated for all of eight years in the Supreme Court itself.

Some cases are likely to outlive the parties and may in effect absolve the guilty. That is why some defense counsel intentionally prolong the proceedings (with the consent—or is it the connivance?—of the court) to escape their client's inevitable conviction. One of Joseph Estrada's lawyers openly gloated that their defense panel could obstruct his trial by as long as five years, which could be a conservative estimate, judging from their many dilatory tactics. If the Sandiganbayan continues to indulge Erap, who complains of so many bodily afflictions that need urgent medical attention abroad, he may be dead before he is convicted.

Many cases simply linger on and on like a comatose person, practically dead but still clinically alive. Others may be struggling to be alive but vainly waiting for the necessary stimulant, whatever it may be. The judicial inertia is puzzling. The Supreme Court can decide cases with lightning speed if it is so inclined, like, understandably, the challenge to the legitimacy of the Macapagal-Arroyo presidency. Other cases do not deserve equal expeditious action and have remained to gather dust in the judicial dockets. Some of them will be ultimately dismissed when the issue becomes "moot and academic."

On July 15, 1997, several petitioners, including the Commission on Human Rights (subsequently joined by the IBP and Mabini) sued Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim before the Supreme Court for his paint-spraying of the houses of "known" and "confirmed" drug pushers. Instead of ruling directly on the constitutional issues raised, the high tribunal referred the case to the regional trial court of Pasig City, which dismissed it on Sept. 12, 1997 "for lack of a cause of action." On Jan. 26, 2000, the Court of Appeals reversed the trial court and declared Lim's paint-spraying ordinance unconstitutional. On certiorari before the Supreme Court, which could have decided the case on the merits, the petition was dismissed in a minute resolution on Feb. 19, 2001, for, believe it or not, "technical reasons." It took the high court one year to discover that ridiculous ground.

Typical is the case of Annabelle Rama, who was charged with estafa in 1993. When the prosecution rested, she filed a motion to dismiss for insufficient evidence that was denied in 1994. Allowed to present her evidence, she refused and later attempted but ultimately failed to prevent the promulgation of judgment. The trial court convicted her on May 25, 1995. Claiming she was physically unfit to be imprisoned, she asked the Court of Appeals to issue a restraining order, which it did on June 15, 1995. The government questioned that order before the Supreme Court, where it is still being pondered. It is now 2002, but the end of the beginning nine years ago is not yet in sight.

Sadly, this is true not only of the Rama case but of many other cases that have been languishing among the moldering *rollos* in the futile hope of being resolved at last after the long, long wait. "The time to repair the roof," said John F. Kennedy, "is when the sun is shining." For our courts of justice, it must be perpetual rain.

'Please naman'

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about Pedro and Juan, two barriomates who accidentally bumped into each other and started comparing notes about their new life in the city. They shared their recent adventures and discoveries, and how indeed they had come a long way from their *promdi* ways and days. At one point Pedro asked, "By the way, what is meant by cooling place?" Juan answered "Oh, that's easy. When the phone rings, pick it up and say, 'Hello, who is cooling place?'"

* * *

The Gospel today (Mt. 3, 13-17) talks about Jesus' humble response to the call to be baptized by John, and how he pleased the Father. We too are all called by God to live lives pleasing to Him. Are you living a life pleasing to the Father? If God were looking at you right now, would He be beaming with joy and pride? So, to the question "Who is calling please?" the answer is simple: God is calling. Please Him.

* * *

Remember to please only the Father. If you try pleasing everyone, you'll end up pleasing no one, including yourself. Remember the story of the little girl who tried to please everyone? She tried to do everything and to be everywhere just to be popular. In the process of wooing everyone, she ended up not making unpopular decisions so as not to displease anyone. She was sugar and spice, and everything nice. She took no sides, except her side, and those on her side. She was all puffed up, but had no substance inside.

Those who try to please everyone end up *ampao*—all form, no substance. We are called by virtue of our baptism to live substantial and meaningful lives, even if this would entail being misunderstood or being persecuted.

* * *

Jan. 15 is the Feast of Blessed Arnold Jannsen, the founder of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), the Holy Spirit Sisters (SSpS), and the Pink Sisters (S.SpSAP). This was a man who sought to please only God. He was stubborn and unbending when it came to doing God's will. Early on, a lot of his companions wanted to abandon him, but he persisted and insisted on what he discerned as God's will. For him, God's will was non-negotiable.

Alas, many of us are *negosyante* when it comes to doing God's will.

* * *

For those who think that it is too late to live a life pleasing to the Father because of mistakes and blunders of the past and prisons of the present, listen to this story of a 44-year-old man who wanted to commit suicide because of financial difficulties. He was successful on the fast lane until tragedy struck, and the only way out, he thought, was to end it all. His family could collect his insurance and he'd be out of trouble. But God did not give up on Him, though he had given up on God a long time ago. His one last act was to order an astronomy book titled "Night Watch" as a gift for his father. When he opened the box from the bookstore, he got the biggest surprise of his life. Inside the box was the book "Night Falls Fast...A Book on Suicide." Right there and then, he knew God was speaking to his heart. It was a moment that changed his life.

This is not just a story. I was speaking to this guy in my office last week, and I know that he has accepted God in his life, and he has seen the light. More than that, he has resolved, from now on, to live a life pleasing to God.

* * *

Food for thought: It is good that you understand, but it is not enough that you know and understand. You must take a stand. Understand? You cannot, as it were, just "sit on the wall" like Humpty Dumpty. If you sit on the wall, trying to please everyone and letting opportunities pass you by, you might in the end have a "great fall." Taking a stand does not mean making grand stands either, for that would be grandstanding. It simply means standing for what you really believe in. "Speak your truth quietly and clearly." This line from the "Desiderata" reminds us again that we don't need to shout, we do not need to broadcast, we do not need a press conference every time we open our mouths.

* * *

More than the words, it is the lives that we live that substantiate our words. People are not stupid. They have a sixth sense that can perceive sincerity and honesty in a person. Action speaks louder than words. Words move, but examples draw. I write a lot. I speak a lot. And I pray a lot in humility before God, fully aware that I often fall short of what I write and say.

* * *

From our SVD Superior General Fr. Tony Pernia, a request for prayer for the healing of a 30-year-old missionary working in Congo, Africa. Fr. Jayson Kurian is now lying in a coma due to cerebral malaria. He has left everything to follow Christ, braving deprivation, loneliness, persecution and sickness to spread the Good News. Not a pleasant life in the eyes of men, but pleasing in the eyes of God.

This leaves us again with the question: Am I living a life pleasing to God? Please *lang*. Please *naman o*!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that it profits me nothing if I please the world but end up displeasing you. Amen.

Unlearning bad habits

COMMENTARY

Jerry Domingo Apolonio
Institute on Church and Social Issues

FOR TWO years now, I have noticed a significant decrease in the use of firecrackers among Filipinos as a way of welcoming the new year. Gone are the days when my family preferred to attend the early evening Mass on New Year's Eve for fear of meeting an accident because of the numerous kids who carelessly threw firecrackers at people who passed by.

So, what has been happening? Is it because the steadily deteriorating economy is forcing Filipinos to save money? Have we finally learned that accidents can be better prevented rather than treated? I honestly don't know. What I do know is that this decrease in firecracker use indicates that we Filipinos can unlearn bad habits.

At two o'clock in the morning of Jan. 1, my cousin and I rode a motorcycle around our *poblacion*. There was hardly anyone in the streets, unlike the years before. What lay on the streets were mountains of garbage, mainly consisting of what remained of used firecrackers—cones of different sizes, burnt cylinders of so-called Roman candles, bamboo sticks and tons of paper. I wondered how our community would manage to clean that mess.

When I woke up five hours later at around 7:30, I had the surprise of my life. The streets were already clean, and everywhere I looked I saw people of different ages and gender sweeping merrily. By nine o'clock that same morning, no one would've guessed that there was a celebration the night before.

A lot can be said of this experience. But the main point is: **There is hope for the Filipinos.** The people of our town proved that we Filipinos are inherently responsible and mature; that we have a sense of community, we are industrious, have the necessary initiative, and more importantly, we are disciplined. This may come as a breath of fresh air for some of us who have been starting to despair over the headlines in our newspapers (the INQUIRER included) over the past months: corruption in government, irresponsibility of public officials, conflict among Filipinos, red tape in government offices; and the continuously decaying values of our countrymen.

I have reason to believe that what I experienced in my town is also happening in other parts of the archipelago. My town is not much different from the other municipalities in terms of demography, culture or values. And even in the most diverse communities, importance is given to life, liberty, honor, peace and prosperity, among others despite differences in philosophies (like Christian values and the teachings of the Koran).

What then is wrong? Why is it that the Filipinos can demonstrate these virtues one day and revert to their bad habits the next day? Why do we easily get tired of good initiatives and turn to our infamous "*Bahala na*" attitude? Why can't we give up our *ningas-kugon* mind-set?

With all due respect to Dr. Jose P. Rizal, our national hero, I think the Filipino has no reason anymore to be indolent. The excuses offered by Rizal in defense of our countrymen more than 100 years ago do not hold water anymore. The country's natural resources have already been depleted and the climate has been altered, no thanks to global warming. All that remains of Rizal's defense are two: close family and interpersonal ties; and the oppressive circumstances that deprive us of our self-esteem (under a colonial master).

However, these two factors can actually be made to work in favor of Filipino industry and initiative. We Filipinos need to work harder because instead of being dependent on our families, we have to make sure that they will be able to enjoy better lives despite the difficult times. And we can work harder to overthrow the colonizer, who unfortunately at present are also Filipinos who are deceitful, selfish, corrupt and have little respect for human life.

In the final analysis, what hinders us Filipinos from sustaining our positive initiatives lies within ourselves. We need to crave for a better life so badly that we will move heaven and earth to achieve it. The fervor inside the Filipino heart to address national issues must once again be awakened. If the people of my hometown can clean up the streets in a matter of hours, imagine what we Filipinos, united as one and with one common goal, can do for our nation.

There is still hope for the Filipinos. This I believe, as much as I believe in myself, a Filipino.

A 'Sutokil' adventure

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I'D BEEN in Cebu many times, but I'd never had the chance to dine at "Sutokil," (an abbreviation for "Sugba [grilled], Tinola [stewed] at Kilawin [native sashimi], abbreviated even further these days to "STK"). I'd heard and read a lot about Cebu's downscale version of the Seafood Market, especially from the hubby and son, who had a memorable dinner there with nine of our son's classmates from St. Benilde's during the Advertising Congress. So the anticipation was building when I flew into Cebu last Wednesday to take part in a consultation sponsored by the USAID.

Thursday afternoon, as the proceedings were winding down, I whispered to my seatmate, PNGOC's Eden Divinagracia, that we should just skip dinner and head out to Lapu-Lapu City, where "Sutokil" can be found. "My sister-in-law is taking me there tonight!" she responded eagerly. "Why don't you just join us?"

Though normally loath to intrude into family affairs, I was besotted enough by the prospect that I jumped at the invitation. And so it was that I found myself joining Eden in the Calderon family's van that evening. With us were Lucille, only sister of Eden's husband, and her husband Bobby; their daughter Anne and her husband Don Villanueva, and their two sons, including one-year-old Tom-Tom whose favorite sport, it seemed, was to stand on the ledge behind the front seat, looking like a ship captain guiding his vessel to safety. Tom-Tom also had his patient *yaya* in tow.

We were lucky in that at that time of day, there wasn't much traffic on the long drive to Lapu-Lapu. After crossing the beautiful Marcelo Fernan Bridge and driving past a string of resorts hidden behind high walls, we finally came upon the illuminated Magellan Shrine, just beside which was "Sutokil."

* * *

"I HAVE just one tip for you," Asia United Bank president Abraham Co, who was taking part in the consultation as chair of the FriendlyCare Foundation, told me before we left for "Sutokil." "Don't check out the kitchen. The last time I was there, I paid a visit and was so dismayed I backed out."

Well, I had no intention of visiting any kitchens (I never do). And, knowing that my husband and son and his friends had survived their last meal, I was reasonably confident I would, too.

Still, the first glimpse of "Sutokil" can dampen the appetite. We parked in an open lot that had a huge muddy puddle in the center. After gingerly stepping over stones and cement blocks thoughtfully laid out to spare our shoes from a dunking, we walked past an *eskinita* with boarded up stalls on both sides. We finally reached an open space, lit by the bright bulbs hanging over a number of stalls, with gleaming produce from the sea on display.

Lucille called to her daughter Anne, who it seems is the expert when it comes to choosing the tastiest and freshest seafood. With Anne's good eye, and our kibitzing, we walked away with plastic bags of crabs, seaweed, squid, scallops and a huge fish called "*mamsa*." Then we entered an unpretentious stall with the incongruous sign "No Problem," the name of the restaurant, apparently. Welcomed by the proprietress with the unusual name of Rose Inihaw, we proceeded to our tables at the back of the place, near the water.

* * *

"NO PROBLEM'S" modest entryway belies its size. The pavilion at the back holds a good number of tables, laid out refectory-style and covered in plastic tablecloth. When we entered, many of the tables were occupied by foreigners, tourists probably, who, judging from their faces, had immensely enjoyed their repast.

We took a table set against the patio railing, and felt the cool sea breeze ruffling our hair. A few minutes later, Don arrived bearing a "*lapad*" bottle filled with what looked like a sickly orange liquid. "Sea urchins," he replied when I asked what he was carrying. "It's sea urchins soaked in vinegar," Lucille added. "You have to make sure it's fresh, though, otherwise your stomach will act up."

I had only one reaction when I heard "sea urchins." *Uni!* This was my favorite kind of sushi, what I always scanned menus of Japanese restaurants for, despite the prohibitive price. I was all the more astonished when Don said one bottle of pickled *uni* cost only P30 each.

I eagerly tried the lumpy orange liquid that Don poured out on a saucer. The vinegar softened the sharp salty taste somewhat, but the sweet, musky taste of fresh *uni* remained. Heaven!

* * *

IN WHAT seemed like less than 15 minutes, our food arrived. The magnificent *mamsa* had undergone three separate preparations: the head was turned into slightly sourish *tinola*, the Cebuano equivalent of *sinigang*; the belly was turned into sweet *kilawin*; and the tail section grilled just the way I liked it.

Toward the end, we had all given up to fullness, but Lucille said she didn't want to have to take home any of the crabs. So I (reluctantly, ahem) ended my meal picking through the remaining crabs. Afterwards, I was embarrassed to find my plate with the highest mound of crab shells, and Anne laughingly urged me to transfer some to adjoining plates. But I felt no embarrassment. "Sutokil" deserved the tribute of a strong appetite.

As we were leaving, Rose Inihaw met us by the entrance and by her confident manner, it was obvious she'd had a lot of experience dealing with customers from all over the world. "She has undergone a transformation. Just a few years ago, she wasn't even wearing any makeup!" exclaimed Lucille.

One part of me wishes "Sutokil" would undergo a transformation, too. Such that the likes of Abra Co could eat there in comfort. But another part of me wishes that "Sutokil" remains the way it is: out-of-the-way, humble, ramshackle and brimming with "atmosphere." Otherwise, dining there would not be the adventure it is now.

US troops in Mindanao

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE 1987 Constitution is clear enough on the matter: After the expiration of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement in 1991, no foreign military bases, troops, or facilities shall be allowed in the Philippines except under a treaty. On Sept. 16, 1991, the Philippine Senate rejected a new treaty that sought to extend the stay of US forces on Philippine soil.

Many years later, some quarters tried to smuggle elements of the rejected treaty into a harmless-looking Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA). Thoughtful Filipinos saw through this ruse and vigorously opposed it. A watered-down agreement was subsequently approved during the presidency of Joseph Estrada. That VFA refers only to joint military exercises and foreign troop visits that are regularly scheduled. It does not confer legal warrant or protection on US forces who come to the Philippines to participate in an ongoing war, whether as combatants or as advisers.

The reason for this is quite simple. Independent nations must fight their own wars, especially when these are waged within their own territory against some of their own people. Governments that enlist foreign help in quelling local insurgencies compromise their independence. They deserve the contempt of their citizens.

In November last year, two dozen so-called "military advisers" arrived from the United States and have since been in and out of Mindanao. These advisers are preparing the groundwork for the entry of more than 100 US troops who are expected to join Filipino troops in the frontline in Basilan. A spokesperson from the Pentagon, Lt. Commander Jeff Davis, said the mission is purely supportive of the Philippine military and will not engage directly in combat. Even so, it is the first time since the 1950s that American military advisers are being allowed to take an active part in managing a local war in the Philippines.

The apparent public acceptance of these troops seems to feed upon prevalent anti-Moro sentiments and a general exasperation with Philippine military efforts in Mindanao. But this is a local war, and the Abu Sayyaf are local bandits. That Americans and other foreigners have been among their victims does not make them global terrorists. This is an internal problem that is being given an international dimension. Why?

Sen. Ralph Recto is right in demanding that Malacañang state the "parameters" of the American presence in the Philippines at this time. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has sought to explain this presence in the light of the VFA. She was reported as suggesting that perhaps the next military exercises might be held in Basilan. Yet she knows that the war against the Abu Sayyaf is not a military exercise.

On the other hand, the Americans see their presence in Mindanao as part of the US commitment to help individual nations combat international terrorism in their own shores. Unlike the restrictive VFA, the crusade against global terrorism gives them flexibility in defining the extent of their intervention in a country's internal affairs.

In the postwar period, the containment of global communism became the warrant for the most unspeakable acts of US intervention in the affairs of other nations. America made it a point, for example, to anoint Filipino presidents. Today it is the war against terrorism on multiple fronts that is giving America that warrant. This campaign will be comprehensive; it will not be exclusively military. Ultimately, it will take the form of economic, political and cultural intervention. Its final objective will not simply be the security of America but its economic and political hegemony.

The management of a post-Taliban Afghanistan serves as the model for this new interventionism. The lessons being tried in Kabul today will be useful in controlling political transitions in places like Pakistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Indonesia.

US intervention never thrives in a vacuum. It requires a receptive local medium for it to flourish. Nations governed by elites with a long history of colonial collaboration are filled with politicians who have no qualms about promoting personal ambition through foreign sponsorship. Against the long-term interests of their people, they allow themselves to serve as subalterns of foreigners.

Foreign intervention corrodes a nation's integrity. It distorts its priorities and fosters a culture of dependence that stifles initiative and self-respect. Fifty years of American rule nearly extinguished the taste for freedom that our ancestors fiercely instilled in their children. We began to fear self-reliance. That is why many Filipinos thought the nation would sink with the departure of the last American boat from Subic.

Sept. 11 was a wake-up call for America. Americans have turned that tragedy into a source of energy for revitalized American global power. Their moves are calculated; they don't want to be perceived as being alone in this effort, and so they have offered to share their abundant resources with those that are willing to join them in their crusade.

Like other nations, we saw in this an opportunity to solve some of our own problems. But it is not clear how far we want to go in this US-led anti-terrorist crusade, and what we are willing to give up in exchange for new American arms and equipment.

The deployment of US troops in Mindanao represents to me a reversal of the 1991 paradigm shift in RP-US relations. It is worth asking if we are being quietly led back to an era of presidents handpicked by America.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Doubts about dual citizenship

IN RESPONSE to the clamor of some Filipinos living or working abroad, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Rep. Oscar Rodriguez have jointly filed bills in Congress that will allow dual citizenship for our expatriate countrymen.

The legislative measures seek to grant Philippine citizenship to natural-born Filipinos (or those who acquired their citizenship upon birth and without performing any act) who have become naturalized citizens of other countries. The conferment of Philippine citizenship will allow them to enjoy certain rights and privileges that are reserved for Filipino citizens.

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

Under existing laws, a Filipino who becomes a naturalized citizen of another country automatically loses his Philippine citizenship. This restriction is based on the principle that a person cannot serve two masters.

The authors of the bill believe economic and professional considerations compel Filipinos to reside and work abroad; that they go through the naturalization process only for reasons of social security and protection; and that in spite of the change in their citizenship, they continue to be Filipinos in heart and mind.

But a closer look at the legislative proposals shows that they suffer from flaws that, if not corrected, would have serious consequences on the framework on which our laws on citizenship is built. The economic benefits that dual citizenship is expected to bring to the country may turn out to be illusory.

Oath of allegiance

The bills start on the wrong foot. They assume that expatriate Filipinos take the oath of allegiance to their new countries for financial or personal considerations only; and that if they can have their way they would keep their Philippine citizenship even if they enjoy the care and protection of their newfound homelands.

This assumption disregards the possibility, and fact, that many of these Filipinos made the pledge with the honest and sincere desire to be true citizens of those countries. Sad, but true, many Filipinos migrate abroad because they find no hope or future in this country and would gladly give an arm and a leg to be citizens of other countries.

For these Filipinos, Philippine citizenship is no more than a political label they would gladly give up in favor of a passport that is treated with respect and awe by other countries. If it were possible, they would erase whatever links they have with the Philippines, including the color of their skin.

With the blanket grant of citizenship to Filipinos who have sworn allegiance to other countries, regardless of whether or not they desire to maintain their original citizenship, Philippine citizenship is virtually imposed on Filipinos who have expressly renounced their political ties with their native land.

It is bad enough that the Philippine passport is held in low esteem by many countries, but why contribute to its further degradation by forcing Philippine citizenship on those who have abandoned it in words and in deed, or have not shown any desire to keep it even if that privilege is available?

A new citizen's pledge of loyalty and commitment to his chosen country is a serious matter. It should not be trivialized as something done for less than altruistic reasons.

If an ex-Filipino wants to retain his original citizenship in spite of the oath of allegiance he has taken to his new country, fine. But he should be required to perform certain acts to show his intention to retain his Philippine citizenship instead of giving it to him on a silver platter.

Our heroes will turn in their graves if the political identity for which they gave up their lives is treated like a commodity that is freely and indiscriminately given to anyone, including those who do not like it.

Citizenship obligation

Citizenship is a two-way street. The rights and privileges that accrue to Philippine citizenship carry duties and responsibilities.

The Drilon-Rodriguez bills will grant full civil and political rights to "dual citizenship" Filipinos. Except for running for public office when the foreign citizenship has to be expressly renounced, these Filipinos will be entitled to all the rights and privileges that the Constitution reserves to Filipino citizens. These rights include, among others, exploitation of our natural resources, operation of public utilities, exercise of professions and engagement in all kinds of commercial activities that Filipinos are allowed to do under our laws.

While the bills clearly provide for the grant of civil and political rights to them, they are silent on the duties and responsibilities that go with that citizenship. They will receive benefits from the Philippine government but they will not be obliged to live up to the requirements of their citizenship. It's a one-way street in favor of "dual passport" Filipinos.

The two most important duties that accompany any citizenship status are the obligation to render civic or military services to the country, and payment of taxes.

If an armed conflict arises between the Philippines and the country to which the Filipino-foreigner is also a citizen, on whose militia will he serve? The poorly equipped Armed Forces of the Philippines or the modern military corps of his other country? Or will he just run away to another country and let things cool down before he surfaces again to enjoy whatever blessings his two countries can offer him?

Taxes are the lifeblood of a country. It is through these compulsory monetary collections that governments are able to comply with their primary obligation to provide for the basic needs of their citizens.

Under our existing laws, money earned by Filipinos outside of the country is not subject to income tax. The country where the income is earned has the right to impose and collect that tax. This means a Filipino-foreigner is exempt from the payment of taxes for whatever wealth he has earned and stashed away in his other country. If he earns some income in the Philippines for any business he may have, the taxes the Philippine government can collect from him is limited to that business.

It is not far-fetched to think that a Filipino-foreigner whose business and treasure chest are in his other country will become entitled to civil and political rights in the Philippines and the protection of the Philippine government without paying a single centavo in taxes.

The financial burden of making available the country's facilities and other infrastructure to the Filipino-foreigner, including whatever government services he may avail of, will be shouldered by the locally based Filipinos who faithfully pay their taxes. The Filipino-foreigners will get a free ride at the expense of those who have chosen to cast their lot with the country.

Our legislators should be careful that the proposed "dual citizenship" status for expatriate Filipinos does not become a vehicle for opportunism and exploitation by unscrupulous Filipino-foreigners. The country has no use for Filipinos who will avail themselves of the privileges of Philippine citizenship when it suits their interests, but will immediately jump back to their other country when things don't turn out well.

The case of businessman Pacifico Marcelo, who used his Philippine passport when he did business in the country but junked it in favor of his American passport whenever he traveled abroad, should be an eye-opener on the possible areas of abuse of dual citizenship for expatriate Filipinos.

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR., Editor

THE NEW Year's Eve murder of former Army Lt. Baron Cervantes intensified rumors of a coup and destabilization plots against the 11-month old administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Cervantes, the self-styled spokesperson of the Young Officers' Union (YOU), was killed allegedly because he uncovered a coup plot and its organizers and exposed them to the media.

The head of the Council on Philippine Affairs accused YOU of taking the life of Cervantes. But YOU's chair said "patricians of the Macapagal administration" did it.

Malacañang was quick to counter that people plotting against the government had a hand in the murder. A civil society group said only Malacañang would gain from the killing of Cervantes.

Solving the murder may take time. It may not be solved at all.

As the police look into the conflicting theories and the charges and counter-charges, the INQUIRER asked a brother of Cervantes, the head of an anti-crime group, the secretary general of a militant organization, the national security adviser and two Army officers about their suspects and suspicions in the hope that something like the truth will emerge.

Who killed Baron

It's logical to pin the blame on YOU, although many find it too convenient for comfort

PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO/ ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

'My brother was killed because he was a fighter'

ZOLTAN CHARLES "NICK" CERVANTES, 32,
Baron's younger brother

THE THINGS we are discovering about Baron are as surprising as his killing. When he was still alive, he hardly shared with us anything about his private life, his military career or his other activities. He usually kept us guessing.

We would see him on television or hear about him on radio discussing many controversial issues such as the supposed plot to destabilize the government.

We usually advised him to go slow on his exposés. We feared for his life. But he never listened. He continued to fight for what he believed in. And perhaps that was the reason he was killed.

We can only speculate on his death. Many say he was killed because he blew the lid off the supposed coup plotters. Others believe his death was a result of his exposé on the alleged anomalies in the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

Still others think the infighting in YOU and the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa led to his untimely death.

We leave everything to police investigators. They know what to do and we know they can solve the case.

At this point, our main concern is to seek justice for my brother as we get to know more about him.

Who was Baron really outside of the house?

What was most surprising to us so far was the extent of his connections within the political and military circles. We had no such idea when he was still alive.

But now his critics are exploiting these connections to attack him, calling him a double agent, an extortionist, or an opportunist. We beg to disagree.

When Baron was still alive, he never used a car. We would offer him a ride but he would cordially decline. He preferred to walk or commute.

This only showed how simple his life was. If he were indeed an extortionist he should have had all the comforts in life.

So all the allegations against him don't really make sense. Baron is dead and should be spared all this.

The investigation, we know, is complicated and far from over. More angles, more speculations will surface in connection with my brother's killing. It's up to the police to deal with all of them.

We, Baron's family, know for a fact that he was killed because he was a fighter. He had a strong conviction and he fought for it. He wanted reforms and he worked for it.

It's just unfortunate that he paid dearly. He paid with his life.
Christian Esguerra

'Killer belongs to a group hurt by Cervantes' revelations'

DANTE JIMENEZ,
Chair and president of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption

I SEE several possible motives behind Baron Cervantes' death.

The most probable was his various exposés on corruption and anomalies in several government agencies.

The killer most probably belongs to a circle where Cervantes was able to hurt the feelings of an individual or group of individuals because of his recent revelations.

But whether the mastermind was hurt by Cervantes' exposés because they were true I don't know.

I recall that Cervantes made frontal attacks and named names in the course of his revelations.

Another theory, which is less possible, is that Cervantes was killed because he knew too much. He was killed to prevent him from revealing something he had discovered.

A third theory is that the former Army officer was slain by the people he had deceived while he gathered material for his exposés. It turned out that Cervantes was a consultant of Roilo Golez, the national security adviser.

Cervantes and I are founding members of the Equal Justice Movement, which monitors reports of alleged corruption in the government.

We had a professional relationship but I did not know him personally. But after Cervantes died, I spoke with his relatives and friends and was able to gain insights into the kind of life he had led.

Baron does not deserve to live in this world, in a world full of hypocrisy and materialism. This is because he says what he sees and does what he believes in.

He gave the VACC tips and documents about corruption in government.

Before he was killed, Cervantes turned over to the VACC several documents pertaining to anomalies in the LTO. The anomalies were about drug testing and insurance.

Significantly, among the documents were several clippings of the column of INQUIRER's Honesto C. General last year.

General, in one column, hinted that an insurance monopoly being hatched by then LTO chief Edgardo Abenina was in fact a fund-raising project of RAM and YOU.

Among the recent exposés of Cervantes was the plot of several RAM and YOU members to stage a coup or other destabilization moves against the Macapagal administration.

(Jimenez declined to comment if the LTO anomalies and the destabilization rumors were linked. He said he "might become another Baron Cervantes" if he kept on speculating about the motive of the crime.)

In considering the right motive, the authorities should also consider the capability of the suspect or suspects in perpetrating the crime. This refers to the mastermind's financial and human resources. ***Jerome Aning***

'It was a case of the Right eating its own'

TEDDY A. CASIÑO,
Secretary General, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan

TO ANSWER the question of who killed Baron Cervantes, it is important to determine first exactly who and what Baron was. This in itself is a difficult thing to do since no one can really claim knowledge of Baron's circumstances, not even his family from whom he apparently kept many secrets.

Baron, as many already know, introduced himself around two years ago as an Army captain and YOU spokesperson. But that was just his front, since YOU by that time (and many say until now) had already deteriorated into a paper organization. Former YOU leaders would later say they tolerated Baron because he provided the group good media copy without their having to lift a finger.

He ingratiated himself with various anti-Estrada groups and personalities, eventually becoming a regular fixture in the planning sessions and anti-Erap protests from October 2000 to January 2001.

Baron was useful to the anti-Estrada groups for two reasons. One, he provided the movement with a "military component," better yet, a known group that already had a history of going against the duly constituted authority. Not only did he look like a military officer. He was articulate, swift to the draw and had a capacity to provide his own spin to the news.

Just as important, he provided "intelligence information" useful for planning moves against the pro-Erap camp. This may have been the role that eventually did him in.

Baron was basically a trader of information, some would say a spy, a spook, an intelligence agent, double agent, whatever. He always had something new to tell. He elicited information by first giving it freely, thereby obligating those he talked to to either confirm, deny, clarify it or add something to his bit of news.

In this way, he was able to collect various morsels of data, news, gossip and other bits of information. He processed them into "intelligence reports" for whatever use it would suit him or his "clients," whether they be members of the Council on Philippine Affairs, friends in the Left, "civil society" groups, government officials or his contacts in the military. In exchange, he was given more information and possibly some material or financial remuneration.

After Estrada was ousted, Baron became a consultant of National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, regularly providing information to the government about the latest in the networks he moved in and out of. It was possible he was also a "consultant" of other groups and politicians not necessarily supportive of the government.

The best spies and double agents are the ruthless ones with no loyalty to anyone. They purposely keep a low profile to protect themselves, their informants and their clients.

But Baron was different. He was a self-styled patriot. He also loved the limelight. He was eventually branded by the AFP as a "risk to security" who should "never be trusted." They said all he was after was "fame and position with financial benefits."

In the end, Baron became a mere tool in the power plays of the various factions of the right wing, ruling elite. He passed on all kind of data to all kind of groups, including the media, without necessary qualifying their authenticity. It is most likely that most of Baron's information were lies coursed through him for maximum spread and impact.

Baron not only rat on his colleagues in the military whom he alleged were hatching a coup, he openly disagreed with them in various fora, most of all the media. He felt it his obligation to expose the group's sinister plot and other shenanigans in the government.

It is quite possible that Baron's rift with YOU may have provided other right-wing factions the chance to kill him and "prove" that a coup was seriously being hatched. His assassination could easily be blamed on his former colleagues, thereby taking them out of the power play. At the same time, it would bolster the coup d'état threat peddled by those demanding more concessions from the Macapagal regime.

It is logical to pin the blame on YOU and RAM, although many find it too convenient for comfort. After all, there are others who indirectly benefited from Baron's death. One is the Estrada-Lacson camp, which would use anything to destabilize the administration. Another is the Ramos-Almonte camp, which is trying to foist the threat of a coup or uprising on the public to wrangle concessions from the ruling Macapagal faction. A third is the military establishment itself headed by ex-Gen. Angelo Reyes, which wants to scare the wits out of President Macapagal-Arroyo, thus making her more beholden to the military.

In the end, it was a case of the Right eating its own children.

'He was our sounding board'

ROILO GOLEZ,
National Security Adviser

BARON worked with me as a consultant on anything that would pertain to security—*parang* sounding board.

The case is being investigated. It's a murder case. The less talk the better *baka saan mapunta ang* investigation.

Let the investigators work quietly.

'He was foisted on the public as a *momo*'

COL. RICARDO MORALES,
Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans, Philippine Army.

THE ARMED Forces has been saying all along that he is not one of us. We have said this several times, through Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson, and Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, Army spokesperson. But nobody believed us and that shows our lack of credibility.

When Cervantes first surfaced as co-founder and spokesperson of YOU, the Army immediately checked on his background. His military service was totally disgraceful. But he excelled in packaging himself, and that takes some talent. He made his own press statements. He summoned the media and held press conferences. He made sure he was in the middle of everything. But if you look at his statements closely, you can see these were all safe, middle-of-the-road. *Pang bangka. Tataya kung panalo na.*

The media and the public believed Cervantes because he represented a figment of the imagination that the public wanted to see in the military. They wanted to see the idealism in the officers corps represented by the young officers, as the public saw then in Captain Danny Lim and YOU.

But there is no more Captain Danny Lim and YOU. Perhaps realizing their mistake, they are back in the barracks as ordinary soldiers should be. So there is a vacuum in the minds of the people and Cervantes was just too glad to fill it. He was foisted (on the public) as a *momo* (ghost) to scare other groups, but to most of us in the military, he was like a ghost of the past that we would like to forget.

The military has nothing to gain or lose from the death of Cervantes. That's why we are totally indifferent. ***Fe Zamora***

'He was used by groups that want anarchy'

LT. COL. JOSE Z. MABANTA JR.,
Army chief public affairs

IN LIGHT speculations and conflicting accounts regarding the controversial murder of "Captain" Baron Cervantes, we wish to share some facts about his career background and character. We would like to point out, however, that the following account does not intend to malign his reputation but seeks to enlighten the public and calm public perception regarding the issue.

His records in the Philippine Army showed that he joined the service in 1988 as a commissioned officer. After he was called to active duty in November of the same year, he applied for regular commission and was eventually appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the regular force on Dec. 31, 1989. We did not fund any order for his promotion to the rank of captain. Therefore, his assumption of this rank was unofficial.

A review of the Army counterinsurgency unit's order of battle does not show that Cervantes was among YOU members tried under the General Court Martial for involvement in the 1989 coup d'etat. From May 1990 onwards, Lt. Cervantes served in different army units. He was assigned with the 67th Infantry Battalion of the Army's 7th Division sometime in 1993. After this assignment, he was separated from the service for desertion of duty and was eventually dropped from the rolls in 1994.

On occasions, during the course of his separation from the service, other Army personnel would see him in the company of local entertainment personalities. Sometime in 1997, a fellow officer saw him with a prominent movie personality as if he were the latter's security.

In May 1998, Lt. Cervantes wrote a letter to the government panel negotiating with the rightist rebels, requesting for reinstatement in the service. The panel endorsed Cervantes' request to concerned Army authorities, vouching that the latter was involved in the 1987 and 1989 coup attempts. He was granted "amnesty" on Feb. 26, 1997 under Proclamation No. 723.

After a review of his documents, he was reinstated in July 1998 with his pay and duty status restored retroactive to July, 1 1994. He was recommended to take the Infantry Officers' Basic Course in August 1998 at the Army's training group in Cebu, but the course was cancelled. After failing to inform his unit of his whereabouts, he was marked Awol (absence without leave) and subsequently dropped from the rolls again in September 1998.

Some Army personnel, who have personal knowledge of the slain officer, disclosed that he spent most of his service as a student in the Army's professional training courses.

In a press statement in March 2001, under the assumed name of Captain Bonifacio Magtanggol, he challenged the newly inaugurated Macapagal administration to implement swiftly national reform measures or face YOU's defiance.

With all this accounts, one can infer that Cervantes' service reputation was far from rosy. In fairness, however, we chose to believe that this was due to a distortion of his direction and that he might have been used as a front by other entities that would see anarchy rather than peace in our nation.

While he was tagged as a security risk, we in the Philippine Army sympathize with his family. We also wish for the speedy resolution of the crime against him so that truth and justice will prevail.

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

US Military Police Lance Cpl. Robert Devlin, from the 2nd Military Police battalion 2nd Force Service Support Group, displays restraints used for transporting detainees at Camp X-Ray, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Jan. 10. Camp X-Ray will be one of the holding facilities for Taliban and al-Qaida detainees. REUTERS

Singapore details plot to bomb Western targets

SINGAPORE—Singapore's government has released details of what it said was an elaborate plot by al-Qaida terrorists to blow up Western embassies, US naval vessels and a bus carrying American soldiers.

The government late Friday also made public a videotape it said was found in an al-Qaida leader's house. In the tape, a man now in custody described how explosives could be carried on a bicycle without arousing suspicion. Other evidence included Arabic-language handwritten notes, also found in Afghanistan.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in Washington that the threat to Americans had been "specific" and that suspects arrested by Singapore over the past month would be interrogated and, if appropriate, charged.

He also praised the Singapore government, saying it had "acted with dispatch."

It was the first time a government has revealed that evidence found in Afghanistan has been used to thwart terrorism. Singapore said the targets of the elaborate plot included a shuttle bus carrying American soldiers, the offices of US companies, Western embassies and US ships.

The disclosures Friday came just days after Singapore announced the December arrests of 15 suspected Islamic militants who the government said were involved in an attack plan in the Southeast Asian city-state.

The arrests and alleged plots have shocked Singapore, a small island of 4 million people.

Thirteen of the suspects remain in custody and two have been freed, Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs said Friday. It said the 13 will be held for two years under the Internal Security Act, which allows detention without trial for anyone deemed a national security threat.

The videotape released by the government shows a man now in custody narrating as the camera zooms in on alleged terror targets in Singapore.

"These are the same type of boxes which we intend to use," says the suspect, Hashim bin Abas, as video footage shows boxes resting on top of bicycles—an apparent reference to plans to hide explosives.

"It will not be suspicious to have a motorcycle or bicycle there," says Bin Abas in the grainy video shown Friday evening on Singapore television.

Those detained are believed to also have been planning attacks on the British High Commission, the Israeli Embassy and the Australian High Commission, the ministry said. *AP*

Mahathir links pol's slay to Bin Laden

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has revealed that the shooting of a state assemblyman and attack on a police station was the work of militants linked with Osama bin Laden.

The New Straits Times newspaper Saturday quoted Mahathir as saying that investigations showed that members of a "cell" of the Malaysian Militant Group (KMM) carried out the murder and attack with the aim of toppling the government.

Mahathir said police obtained the information from a robber who was detained after a botched bank robbery in May.

"One of the robbers was interrogated and from this source we learned that the assassination and the attack on the police station last February were carried out by the same group," the 76-year-old premier said.

The murdered assemblyman who was shot at point-blank range in November 2000 was Joe Fernandez, a politician from Mahathir's home state Kedah.

Mahathir said KMM members detained under the tough Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without trial, had admitted they were trained in Afghanistan by the Taliban and by Bin Laden's group.

"As far as we are concerned their intentions are very bad, namely to create trouble and to overthrow the government through terrorism," he said.

Lim Kit Siang, chair of the opposition Chinese-dominated Democratic Action Party described Mahathir's remarks as "disturbing."

"Malaysians are mystified as to how Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida terrorists network have such extensive reach and influence in Malaysia as to be able to orchestrate the assassination of Joe Fernandez and the attack on the police station," he said in a statement. *AFP*

Prisoners reach US Navy base in Cuba

US NAVAL BASE, GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba—A group of 20 al-Qaida and Taliban "bad guy" prisoners from Afghanistan, their hands manacled and unable to see through taped goggles, were led one by one from a US Air Force transport plane under heavy guard and taken away for an indefinite incarceration in a prison camp in this US Navy base in Cuba on Friday.

After a plane journey that brought them across the world from the Afghanistan war front to the sweltering Caribbean, they were spending their first night in small cages, open to the elements, in a prison camp dubbed "Camp X-Ray."

They were the first captives to be shipped away from the war theater. The operation took place fourth months to the day from the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States that killed more than 3,000 people and prompted the US-led war on terrorism targeting Islamic militant Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida movement and his now-vanquished Taliban protectors in Afghanistan.

"They represent the worst elements of al-Qaida and the Taliban," Marine Brig. Gen. Michael Lehnert, commander of the Joint Task Force running the prison operation, said before their arrival. "We asked for the bad guys first."

A military spokesperson said the operation went without any trouble from the detainees.

The detainees were clad in two-piece orange jump suits and white footwear as they were led off the plane. They also wore knitted orange caps, surgical masks and goggles covered with tape. All of them had their hands tied in front of them. Several were in leg shackles.

A group of military-escorted reporters watched the operation from a hill 400 yards from the runway.

Marines stood guard around the C-141 Starlifter after it landed on the runway with the Caribbean on one side, parched scrubland on the other, and Cuban hills in the distance. *Reuters*

Afghan troops pull out of Kabul streets

KABUL—Security was improving in Kabul following a big reduction in the number of armed militias roaming the capital and a build-up in international security troops ahead of a visit to the city by US Secretary of State Colin Powell next week.

Afghan troops withdrew from the streets of Kabul Friday in compliance with a directive from the new interim government.

Powell, who will also visit India and Pakistan in a bid to defuse their stand-off before heading to Japan, said he would like to discuss with interim leader Hamid Karzai how best to marshal aid for the country's reconstruction.

"Secretary Powell will travel to Kabul as part of his upcoming trip and we still reserve the right to name other stops at a future date," spokesperson Richard Boucher said in Washington Friday.

When Powell arrives in Afghanistan he will become the highest ranking US official and first secretary of state to visit the war-shattered country in more than 25 years.

"I would like to have an assessment of the situation in Kabul and in the country, but mostly (I would like) to get to know the leaders," Powell said. "I don't know them on a personal basis and I would like to get to know them."

Meanwhile, the interim government's plan to rid the streets of armed men appeared to be making good progress.

Gen. Din Mohammad Jurhat, a senior security official in the interior ministry, said around 5,000 to 6,000 Northern Alliance soldiers had left the city since Wednesday.

"Around five or six thousand soldiers have left Kabul. More will leave Kabul in a week," he said. "Another five or six thousand divided between the police and the military will remain."

Interior Minister Yunus Qanooni on Wednesday ordered the Afghan military to quit the capital within three days and leave the city's security duties to Afghan police and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Security in the capital would be left in the hands of a fledgling police force and specially-authorized Afghan military units backed by the ISAF.

Qanooni said Friday that some 30,000 people would be recruited to make up the country's new police force. The recruits would be come equally from the country's 32 provinces.

The minister told Afghan Television the force would first be deployed in the capital and then throughout the rest of the country. *AFP*

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Mabibili rin: WISHING PLANT (PAMPAUNLAD NG BUHAY)

SAGOT SA KAHIRAPAN NARITO NA!!!

IMPORTANTENG BASAHIN WAG ITAPON ... IPASA SA IBA KUNG 'DI INTERESADO
LAGI KA BANG WALANG PERA? NALUGI BA NEGOSYO MO? WALA KA BANG PUHUNANAN? TALO KA NA NAMAN BA SA LOTTO, BINGO, JUETENG, JAI-ALAI, SABONG?
WALA KA BANG TRABAHO? GUSTO MO BANG MAG ABROAD?.....
PWES, KAILANGAN MO ITO..... LUCKY PYRAMID & WISHING PLANT
"Wala namang mawawala kung susubukan mo ito!!!"
WAG KA MUNA MANIWALA, SUBUKAN MO MUNA. PAG PANALO KA NG SUNUD-SUNOD, PAG PERA ANG LUMALAPIT SA 'YO, Pag May nagbayad sa 'yo ng utang 'di ka naman naniningil, SAKA KA MANIWALA KAIBIGAN! TRABAHO ANG LALAPIT sa iyo!
HUWAG KA NA MAG-AKSAYA NG PANAHON. "PAG MABILIS KANG BUMILI, MABILIS KANG MANALO, MAGKAPERA AT MABILIS MAGKATRABAHO - PINAKAMABISANG PAMPA-SWERTE
Tandaan: BIYAYA SA NANINIWALA SA PILOSOPO WALA

LUCKY PYRAMID & WISHING PLANT
BAWAL NA MAGTIPID AT MAGBADYET
NAIMBENTO NA ANG PAMPAYAMAN

BODEGA BOY-ROBERT CO NANALO ng P3 Million Jackpot sa LOTTO nakabili ng WHITE PYRAMID SA QUEZON CITY HALL

HINDI MASAMANG MAGSUGAL PAG LAGI KANG NANALO, ang masama pag lagi kang talo. PAG DI KA NAGSUSUGAL, -MAGNEGOSYO!!! DI BA'T ANG NEGOSYO AY SUGAL DIN, isipin mo kaibigan. SAAN GALING ANG PUHUNAN MO? - SA UTANG? sa 5-6? utang inang yan!

BAWAL NG UMUTANG, BAWAL NA MAGTIPID HI-TECH NA NGAYON NA-IMBENTO NA ANG PAMPA-YAMAN! !
FORMULA: LUCKY PYRAMID & WISHING PLANT + FAITH IN GOD
SECRET PRINCIPLE: 'LALO KANG GUMAGASTOS LALONG DUMARATING ANG PERA" "KUNG ANONG TINANIM SYANG AANIHIN"
ANG PYRAMID AY MAY COSMIC POWER NANGGALING KAY JESUS CHRIST, AND HIM YOU HAVE EVERYTHING. (COLOSSIANS 2:10)
- CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BIBLE
Ang LUCKY PYRAMID ay hindi anting-anting o agimat hindi rin magic-SCIENCE ITO - EXPERIMENT. Parang bumili ka ng payong? - Proteksyon para wag kang mabasa ng ulan at mainitan. Ang LUCKY PYRAMID AY GAMOT SA SAKIT SA BULSA - PROTEKSYON PARA DI KA MAUBUSAN NG PERA!!!!!!! WHY NOT TRY IT?

KAILANGAN MO ITO
Gumamit ng Pampa-YAMAN "Gamot sa sakit sa Bulsa." Hindi kayo mauubusan ng PERA. Talagang Totoo Lalong Gumagastos, lalong dumarating ang PERA. Walang Mawawala kung susubukan. YAYAMAN KA LANG
Engr. MARGIE D. CENTENO
Young inventor of the Year 1990
One of the 10 Most Outstanding Inventor 1993

FREE LOTTO JAI ALAI TIPS
PATOK NA PATOK!
JC HERBAL
Celphone No.
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0919-3422861

ALAM BA NINYO...?
Alam ba ninyo na mahigit sa 75 na ang mga nanalo ng JACKPOT na NAKABILI KAY Engr. M.D. Centeno ng LUCKY PYRAMID at WISHING PLANT, ngunit ni isa ay walang bumalik para magpasalamat at magbalato. Gumaling ang kanilang Sakit sa Bulsa, sa iba namin nalaman na NANALO pala sila.
Mabuti pa yung 10 ketongin na pinagaling ni Hesu Kristo, may isang bumalik upang magpusalamat.
Mabuti pa yung mga NANALO ng kakaunting halaga lamang bumabalik sila upang magpasalamat at magpatotoo. Sa kanilang mga balato ay maraming natulungan upang maipaabot ang GAMOT sa SAKIT sa BULSA sa mahihirap.
Bakit pag masamang balita madaling kumalat, pag magandang balita ayaw ikalat, ayaw-i-front page...

Jan. 9, 2002
Bumili ako ng Lucky Pyramid sa JC Herbal worth P3,000, NANALO ako sa Mega Lotto ng P23,000 noong Dec. 19 2001. Nagpapasalamat ako kay Jesus Christ at kay Engr. Margie Centeno.
- Miguel Santos, Parañaque
ENJOY GODS MIRACLES

LABANAN ang KAHIRAPAN LABANAN ang SUGAL

CONGRATULATIONS! "TO LOTTO JACKPOT WINNER FROM BINONDO. MANILA. ANG BINILI NIYA AY WISHING PLANT"

CONGRATULATIONS! Taga Cabuyao-nanalo ng 25 Million sa Lotto, nagpagawa ngayon ng bahay Worth 10 Million sa Mabuhay City

BIYAYA SA NANINIWALA SA PILOSOPO WALA

Oct. 18 2001
Nanalo ako sa 4 digit, ginupit ko lang yung ads sa dyaryo at nilagay ko sa wallet ko. Ilang araw lang tumama na ako. P100,000.00. Solve lahat ang problema ko. (8698 Oct.1)BALATO P500.00
ALEXANDER ARRIENDA IMUS, CAVITE

AUG. 21, 2001
Nag-wish sa wishing Plant NANALO ng JACKPOT sa BINGO (P100,000.00) sa Metropolis Alabang

RICH HAIR GROWER
ONE WEEK LANG TUTUBUAN KA NA NG BUHOK, EFFECTIVE AT GARANTISADO DAHIL TOTOO! WITH NO SIDE EFFECTS. SUBUKAN NG MAPATUNAYAN.

NANALO SA SUPER LOTTO 6/49 ng P28,000.00 last year -Lady from Sto. Tomas Batangas-Feb. 2001 (Green Pyramid w/ face of Jesus binili) (5-8-16-24-32-41).

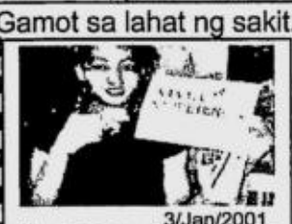
FEB. 6, 2001: Galing kami sa JC Herbal upang humingi ng TIP. Awa ng Dios 3 days lang NANALO ng BINGO Mucho 8 P100,000.00
Miriam-San Pablo City

2 BESES NANALO NG JACKPOT SA LOTTO
Empleyado ng Q.C. City Hall Mr. RAMON BRIONES (nasa U.S na ngayon) nakabili ng WHITE PYRAMID w/ face of Jesus sa Q.C. Hall (23 MILLION)

FREE BIBLE-GAMOT SA WALA NG PAG-ASA OR FREE JC MIRACLE OIL-Gamot sa lahat ng sakit.

7/17/01
Dear Engr. Centeno,
Grabe! very effective talaga ang lucky pyramid at Wishing plant! Di ba kahapon lang ako bumili at presto! Nanalo agad ako ng 1,000 consolation sa session 5 (last game) na blackout bingo sa Olivarez bale alas 7:00 ng gabi yon kahapon Thank you very much sa tips & advise.
Tina L. S. of Lalakay, LG

SAGOT SA KAHIRAPAN NARITO NA!
MABISANG PAMPA-SUWERTE
Goodluck sa Negosyo, trabaho, Pag-ibig, Swerte sa LOTTO, Bingo, Atbp.
LUCKY PYRAMID & WISHING PLANT (pampa-UNLAD NG BUHAY)
KAPAG MABILIS KANG BUMILI MABILIS KANG MANALO AT SWERTEHIN
Visit us at: JC HERBAL CENTER
2665 Nat'l, Hi-way, Anos Los Banos, Laguna (Across Mitz Buko Pie)
Call Tels: (049) 5366900; (049) 8270767
Cells: 0917-9461917; 0919-3422861
0919-8769790
Res. (049) 537-8105 Look for Engr.Margie Centeno.
E-mail: lucky_pyramid@yahoo.com
Swerte mo'y Simulan na! Gupitin ang ADS na ito at ilagay sa Pitaka
Cut & Bring this AD for your FREE LOTTO & BINGO (CIRCLE 8) Tips.
CONGRATULATIONS! Teddy Catalay ng Bitun, Laguna. Nanalo ng 4 na beses sa 4 digits Lotto ng 74 thousand, 94 Thousand, 31 Thousand. at 54 Thousand. Nakabili sa JC Herbal ng Los Baños ng WHITE PYRAMID
Engr. MARGIE D. CENTENO
Young inventor of the Year 1990 one of the 10 Most Outstanding Inventor 1993


3/Jan/2001
8 beses Nanalo sa JUETENG sa loob ng isang Buwan pagkabili ng GOLD Lucky Pyramid. (PATOK na PATOK ang Tips ni Engr. CENTENO) Lagi s'yang kinukuhang ninang
-ALMA S. ng Lipa City Batangas

Nalulugi ba negosyo mo? Lubog ka na ba sa utang? Wla ka bang puhunan? Makakatulong ito sa Iyo... *LUCKY PYRAMID AT WISHING PLANT
Contact:
Engr. MARGIE D. CENTENO
Young inventor of the Year 1990
one of the 10 Most Outstanding Inventor 1993

Mar. 1, 2001
Tinubuan ng buhok sa RICH HAIR after 2 weeks Aris Villegas (30 yrs. old)
-CECIL VILLEGAS, Mayondon, L.B.

Mar. 1, 2001
Tinubuan ng buhok yung kaibigan ko after using 15ml. of RICH HAIR GROWER
-RAQUEL G.of Anos Los Baños, Laguna

Security Guard sa Duty Free NANALO ng P23,000 sa MegaLotto Ginamit pampabinyag sa anak.
BALATO: P500

* WANTED DEALERS... nakakatulong ka na kumikita ka pa (pakyawan Basis)
* Pag tumulong ka sa kapwa babalik sa iyo ang pagpapala
*102x nanalo sa Bingo as of Jan. 2002

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Mitz Buko Pie | JC HERBAL | ISIPIT SA BANKBOOK OR CHECKBOOK ANG ADS NA ITO.

NOTE: Tumataas ang halaga ng Pyramid pag may nanalo sa Jackpot sa Lotto P5,000-20,000 *Best Buy pang JACKPOT • Now Available: P1,800 GOLD PYRAMID
Swerte mo'y Simulan na! Gupitin ang ADS na ito at ilagay sa Pitaka Cut & Bring this AD for your FREE LOTTO & BINGO (CIRCLE 8) Tips.

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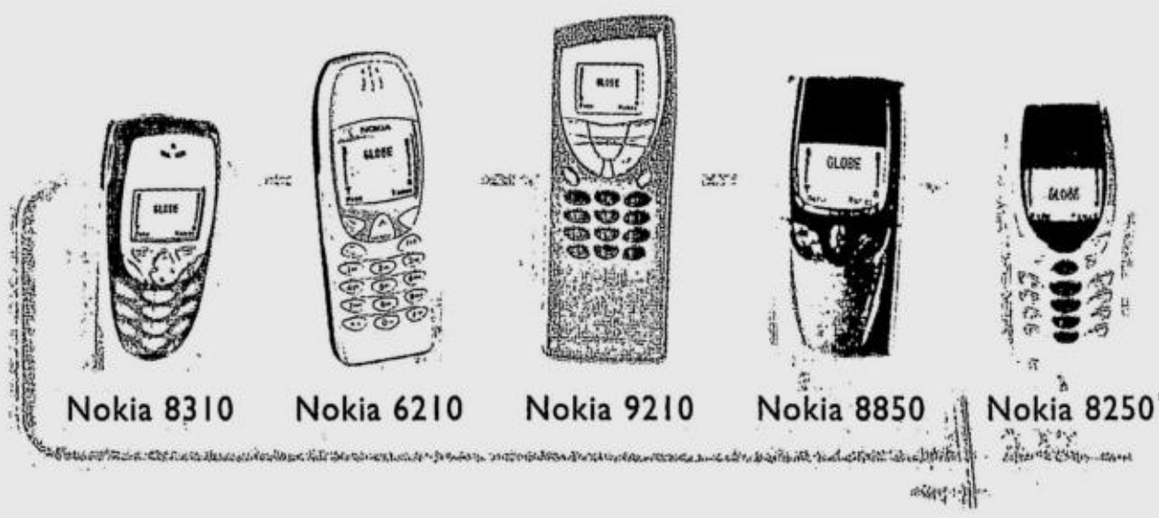

₱10,000 **₱20,000**
₱50,000 **₱100,000**

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Unscramble the letters, then key in the answer with your name and address. Remember to put a space between words.

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THE PHILIPPINE STAR
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Enron spread money around Washington

BY SUSAN CORNWELL

WASHINGTON—Former energy-trading giant Enron Corp. not only lavished campaign donations on President George W. Bush, but was one of America's biggest political contributors, spreading money across both parties on Capitol Hill.

Nearly half the current US House of Representatives and almost three-quarters of the current Senate have been beneficiaries of Enron largesse in recent years, say the Washington watchdog groups that monitor campaign cash.

Since 1989, Enron has made a whopping $5.8 million in campaign donations, 73 percent to Republicans and 27 percent to Democrats, says the Center for Responsive Politics, an organization that tracks political giving.

Nearly half of these funds were donated during 1999-2000, when Enron was one of the top 50 organizational donors in the United States, the Center says.

The money kept coming in until just before Enron filed for bankruptcy on Dec. 2. Since then, as the controversy around Enron has grown, some donations have been given back.

Texans were by far the biggest Enron recipients, and the Republicans got more than the Democrats. Bush, being both a Texan and a Republican, and a friend of Enron chair Kenneth Lay to boot, did very well.

Enron was Bush's biggest political patron as he headed into the 2000 presidential election. In all it has made $623,000 in contributions to his campaigns since 1993, when he was raising money for his first Texas gubernatorial race, according to the Center for Public Integrity, another follow-the-money group.

But the giving did not stop after election day. Enron officials contributed $10,500 to his Florida recount committee, and when the recount was ended, they donated $300,000 for the inaugural celebrations, said Holley Bailey, researcher for the Center for Responsive Politics.

"I think what is interesting about their giving over the last year, is that they used any method possible to support President Bush's campaign run," she said.

What Enron got in exchange for the money was access, Bailey asserted. She noted that Lay had met Vice President Dick Cheney during last year's California energy crisis, at the same time the administration was formulating its energy policy.

"One thing is clear. They have written checks to a lot of people in this town and I guess that gets their phone calls answered when they call Cabinet secretaries," Bailey said.

It was disclosed this week that Lay telephoned two Cabinet officials last fall as the company's financial situation worsened. Enron on Dec. 2 made the largest bankruptcy court filing in US history.

The justice department has opened a criminal probe into Enron's collapse, which wiped out the pensions of thousands, and several congressional committees are also investigating.

The White House points out, accurately, that Enron also contributed money to lawmakers, Democrats among them. Indeed, on Capitol Hill, few have escaped Enron's Midas touch. *Reuters*

Israelis shell Palestinian police dock

GAZA—Israeli missiles slammed into a Palestinian naval police dock where Yasser Arafat's private boat was anchored on the coast of the Gaza Strip early on Saturday, witnesses and Palestinian security sources said.

Arafat's boat was not hit in the attack, which dealt a fresh blow to US peace efforts and was partly carried out in retaliation for an attempt to smuggle a shipload of arms which Israeli commandos seized in the Red Sea last week.

The Palestinian president was in the West Bank city of Ramallah at the time. He has been stranded there since early December after Israeli forces destroyed his helicopters in Gaza.

The attack launched from Israeli warships followed a Palestinian Authority announcement it had arrested three of its own security officers accused by Israel of involvement in the arms shipment. Two are naval police officers.

Israel had accused Arafat and the Palestinian Authority of being behind the shipment, which it said was bound for Palestinian-ruled areas in violation of interim peace accords. The Palestinians denied the allegations.

The Israeli Army said it hit the naval police post and a boat which two of the crew members found aboard the arms ship had once used. It said it was also responding to a Palestinian attack on Wednesday in which four Israeli soldiers were killed.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell had backed Israel's demand that Arafat arrest those responsible for the arms ship.

Israel, which in the past has criticized Arafat for a "revolving door" arrest policy, said it would welcome the detentions if they were genuine.

A US official called the arrests a "step in a positive direction" but said Arafat must now provide a full explanation of the incident.

Violence also flared overnight in the southern Gaza Strip.

Palestinian security sources said a tank shell hit a house in Rafah, wounding eight people.

The Israeli Army said it demolished an empty house in Rafah enclosing a tunnel which had been used to smuggle arms from Egypt to the Palestinian Authority. It did not say whether its forces had fired a shell.

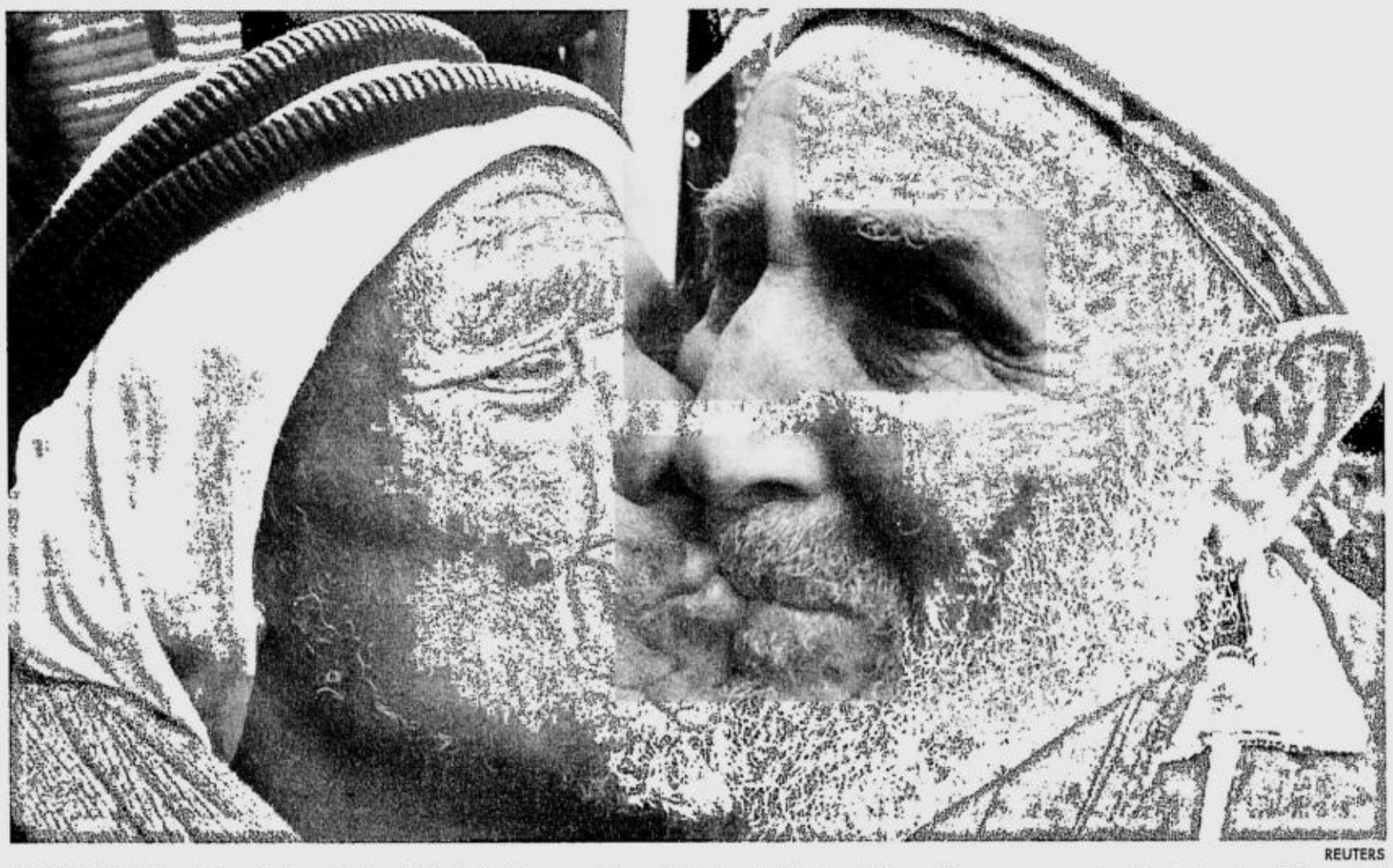
Army bulldozers, which had begun tearing up the runway at the international airport in Gaza before dawn on Friday in retaliation for the Palestinian raid on Wednesday, returned under cover of darkness to continue demolition, witnesses said.

The Army said it aimed to "decommission" the runway and that it continued to hunt for suspected arms smugglers.

In Gaza City, witnesses said at least three missiles were fired from an Israeli ship. An Israeli naval blockade has been in force since the start of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation in September 2000.

The latest violence has threatened to wreck renewed peace efforts by US Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni, who left the region last Sunday expressing hopes for progress toward a lasting ceasefire.

The longest lull in the 15-month-old conflict was broken on Wednesday when militants, one of whom was in the naval police, killed four soldiers in a raid on an Army post in southern Israel. *Reuters*



REUTERS

VENERATION for a father of a 'hero'—An elderly Palestinian man kisses the father (left) of Imad Rizq, a Hamas gunman who attacked an Israeli Army post with his friend near Gaza airport last week, during a Hamas protest at Rafah refugee camp Southern Gaza Strip Jan. 11. Israeli tanks and bulldozers tore up the runway at the Palestinian-controlled international airport in the Gaza Strip on Friday in retaliation for a Palestinian raid that killed four Israeli soldiers.

All-out Colombia war looms

LOS POZOS, Colombia—A United Nations envoy and FARC guerrillas said on Friday there was still hope of avoiding all-out war in Colombia and they agreed to keep talking until a Saturday night deadline.

If UN envoy James LeMoyne fails to extract FARC concessions to save three-year-old peace talks by 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, then the rebels have until the same time on Monday to vacate their enclave before a government military offensive.

After a first day of talks on Friday at an open-air table under a thatched roof, LeMoyne told reporters in the Switzerland-sized FARC-held zone he was ready to work until the last moment to meet President Andres Pastrana's deadline.

"I still hope we can find a way out of this crisis and keep seeking the negotiated solution to the conflict that Colombia needs and deserves," the former American journalist said.

But analysts and diplomats were doubtful the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—known by the Spanish initials FARC—would agree to drop their categorical demands for an end to security controls and surveillance around their territory.

The military has massed tanks and men on the borders of the demilitarized enclave which Pastrana gave the FARC in late 1998 at the start of peace talks to end a war now 38 years old.

Despite these talks, war has raged largely unchecked in most of Colombia outside the guerrilla haven, adding more lives daily to a death toll of 40,000 in the past decade.

Many Colombians fear that if talks with the FARC are definitively broken, the rebels will go on the offensive.

Camouflage-clad FARC commanders described the five hours at the table with LeMoyne as "valuable and constructive."

"We have agreed to continue the meeting tomorrow, in the certainty of finding formulae to allow us to overcome this difficult moment," said a FARC statement read by spokesperson Carlos Antonio Lozada. *Reuters*

Cash-starved Argentines shunning new dollar

BUENOS AIRES—Argentine widow Marie Lee stood in a bank line to collect a pension and chain-smoked, with good reason to be anxious. Her ticket said she was 1,458th in line. Tellers had just dealt with customer No. 450.

"Buy dollars?" she said, laughing when asked if she would participate in the first day's free-floating currency trade in Argentina in 10 years. "I've been waiting here for hours just to get my pension and there are another thousand people in front. That's enough for a day."

Marie Lee's shunning of a brave new world of Argentina's floating currency was typical of many who ignored the chance to buy dollars, soothing fears that the government's plan to turn around a four-year recession by devaluing the peso could fail.

Doomsayers have predicted that the elimination of the one-to-one peg could cause a stampede for US dollars—the currency safe haven in Latin America—and spark a collapse in the peso that would threaten the financial system.

But—so far—Argentines, their bank savings frozen to stop a run on banks, simply do not have the cash to trade after a recession that has seen companies go bankrupt, jobs disappear and the government default on its $141-billion debt.

In downtown Buenos Aires, where most people window shop and a consumer loaded with bags is a rare sight, a sunglasses store was accepting as currency the luncheon vouchers provided by companies to pay for an employee's meal, a sign of the shortage of cash.

Many other shops offered discounts of 50 percent. Some banks had metal grills over windows, fearful of a resumption of the rioting that has shaken Latin America's third-largest economy and caused five presidents to be appointed over the past month.

On Friday, the currency depreciated to between 1.50 pesos and 1.70 pesos to the dollar compared with the government's new fixed 1.40 rate for official business and exports.

In the crucial first day of the peso float, the government seemed to be achieving its aim of stopping Argentines from moving into dollars.

Marie Lee, who like others interviewed for this story declined to give her last name, was waiting for a third installment of a monthly $450 pension in "Patacones"—short-term bonds issued by the local Buenos Aires province to make up for a shortage of cash.

"The dollars I have are in a foreign bank and frozen. I just live day to day. I can't afford to buy dollars," she said, trying to shade herself during a hot summer day.

Across the capital, people lined up outside gleaming new exchange houses. But many left empty-handed, refusing to buy dollars at a rate they said was too expensive.

"The heat is nothing, it's the price that kills you," said Adriana, a 48-year-old toy saleswoman with debts in dollars lining up at a foreign exchange house.

She and other potential customers gave up and walked away upon learning how much a dollar would cost her. Some bargained among other customers in the line under the harsh sun to see if they could get a better rate than an exchange house.

Other Argentines, indebted with utility bills after a month of banks being mostly closed amid financial and political crisis, wanted to change some dollar savings for pesos. *Reuters*

Bush holds population funds

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush has put a temporary hold on millions of dollars in international family planning funds due to China's population control methods, the Washington Post reported Saturday.

The daily, citing administration and congressional sources, reported that the White House could withhold $34 million from the United Nations Population Fund this year, under pressure from US anti-abortion groups and conservative lawmakers who complain that the agency condones forced abortions and sterilization by providing aid to family planning programs in China.

The newspaper also reported that the White House was considering making the cuts permanent to signal opposition to Beijing's policies.

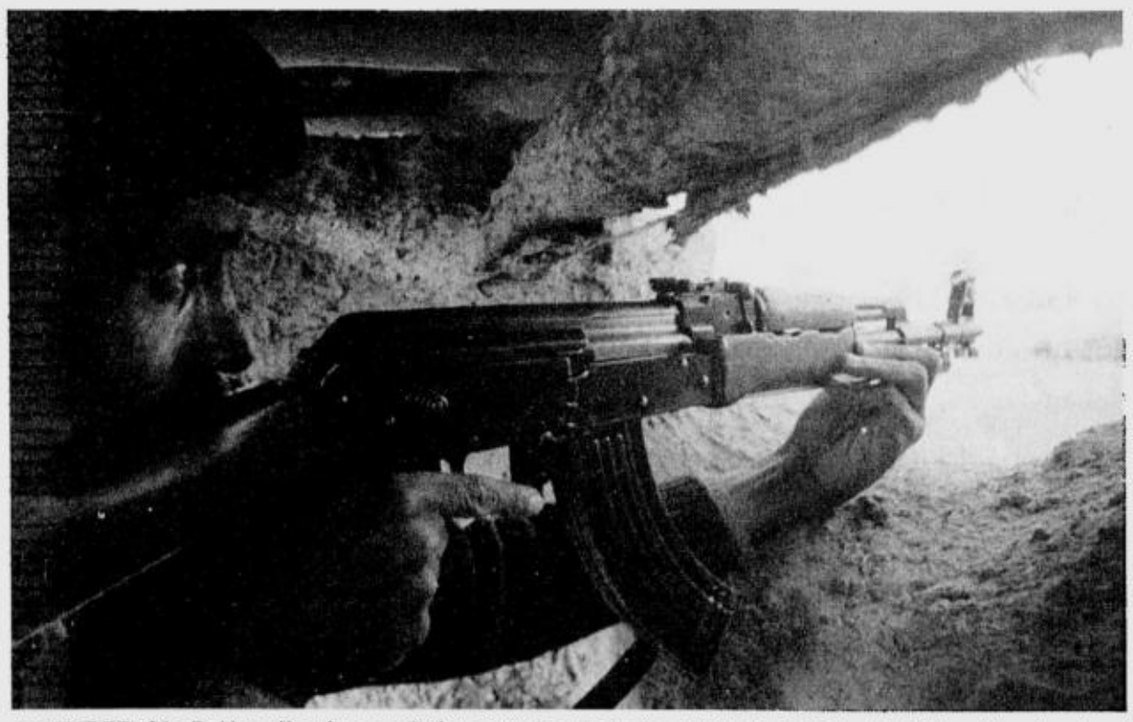
UN officials sharply dispute allegations that their money supports forced abortion, saying they closely monitor the programs and sent over an independent team last year to investigate such charges.

The United Nations estimates the loss of US funding could undermine their capacity to prevent 800,000 abortions and the deaths of 4,700 mothers and 77,000 children under the age of five, Stirling D. Scruggs, an agency spokesperson, told the Post.

The newspaper reported that several US lawmakers who support abortion rights were also critical of the move.

"This act is against the will of Congress, against the written support of (Secretary of State Colin) Powell, and against the crucial needs of millions of women and children around the world," Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat, told the daily. *AFP*

India awaits crucial Musharraf address



A MEMBER of the Pakistani border security force watches the Indian side inside Pakistan-held Wagah border, about 30 km from Lahore, Jan. 11. Pakistan said it would take more steps to curb militant violence and hoped international intervention could defuse a standoff with India that has brought the nuclear neighbors to the brink of war. REUTERS

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf was set to address his nation on Saturday as some Pakistan and Indian troops traded fire overnight along their border and the United States cautioned them against war.

The official APP news agency said Musharraf would speak at 7:30 p.m. (10:30 p.m. in Manila) in an address which could pave the way for an easing in the stand-off between the two countries, triggered by an attack on India's parliament last month, or prompt fresh action by India.

The general has been preparing for several days for the speech, under pressure from nuclear rival India to do more to crack down on Islamic militants and with the international community calling on both sides to end the stand-off.

India has accused Pakistan of sponsoring militants fighting Indian rule in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, demanded that it dismantle the Islamic groups fighting its rule in the disputed Himalayan region and hand over 20 militants in connection with that dispute and others.

Pakistan has denied the accusation, but has offered moral support to what it has called a "freedom struggle" in Kashmir.

And while Musharraf has denounced terrorism and vowed a crackdown on extremists within his borders, Pakistani officials have played down prospects of a history-making move by Musharraf on the Kashmir dispute.

As India's Army chief S. Padmanabhan said on Friday his Army was ready for war, the United States sounded a word of caution and said New Delhi should give Musharraf time to crack down on Kashmiri militants and not focus all its expectations on the speech he is due to deliver.

India has mobilized the bulk of its 1.2 million strong Army—prompting a similar build-up from Pakistan's smaller Army of around 500,000 to 600,000 men—to try to force Islamabad to crack down harder on Pakistan-based Kashmiri separatists. *Reuters*

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Lu[illegible] Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) [illegible]3-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail: pdimnda@dv.weblinq.com

Macapagal proclaims Singson 'Father of Edsa II'

BY LEONCIO BALBIN JR.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—From "Juetengate" whistleblower to "Father of Edsa II."

That was how President Macapagal-Arroyo described former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson as she paid tribute Thursday night to the man perceived to be instrumental in ousting her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, almost a year ago.

"I will greet Chavit Singson, who is no longer the father of Ilocos Sur, but I consider him the father of Edsa II," Ms Macapagal told more than 2,000 guests and alumni of the Ilocos Sur National High School during its grand centennial homecoming here.

Her remark was widely applauded by the crowd.

The 100-year-old high school is the biggest in the province with more than 6,000 students. It boasts of alumni like Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Ante-Lee, Hawaii Rep. Jun Abinsay and Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff.

Like poll campaign

The atmosphere during the homecoming was like an election campaign rally, with students and alumni jostling one another to shake the hand of the President.

During her visit to the school, the President also unveiled project markers of the P2.5-million Balay ti Alumni and the P5.7-million centennial gymnasium and multipurpose hall.

She awarded checks for P75,000 to each of the province's six public hospitals as medicine assistance to poor patients.

The visit, which included sorties to nearby Abra, was far from perfect.

Vigan Mayor Eva Marie Singson-Medina abandoned her plan to welcome Ms Macapagal and her party at the Mindoro Airport because of the strict security enforced by members of the Presidential Security Group.

Medina's vehicle was not allowed to enter the airport compound, prompting her to just go back to her office and ignore all the other affairs, including a dinner with the President and local officials, at the Baluarte residence of her brother, Chavit.

'Erap mansion'

The sprawling Baluarte has five buildings, including the supposed "Erap mansion" situated on top of a hill where Ms Macapagal and the officials had dinner.

Singson claimed the guesthouse was built for Estrada, his former friend and drinking buddy.

"I was then on a winning streak in our mahjong sessions with Erap and I suggested that I put up a mansion for him here which he approved," Singson said in Ilocano.

The mansion was patterned after a guesthouse in Malacañang, on the suggestion of the ousted president. But Singson said Estrada never had a chance to use the house as they parted ways before it was finished.

Ms Macapagal, who spent the night at the guesthouse, was the first President to use it, he said.

The President's close association with Singson was criticized by the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa), which has filed criminal charges, including a plunder case, against the former governor with the office of the Ombudsman.

Sisa officers said they were dismayed over the actions of Ms Macapagal, expressing doubts if the cases against Singson would ever prosper under her term.

But Singson, who remained confident the cases would be dismissed, said he and the President "never talked about those complaints."

The Sisa members planned to show some streamers to Ms Macapagal on her way to the Ilocos Sur National High School but were stopped by the police escorts of the President's party.

Abra trip

Earlier in Abra, Ms Macapagal said she would not have become President if she was not voted overwhelmingly as Vice President during the 1998 elections.

"I take this opportunity to thank you. Ninety-five percent of voters here in Daguioman voted for me in 1998 as vice president. I would not have become president if I did not become vice president," Ms Arroyo said in Ilocano to the delight of the crowd led by Mayor Sally Co Kue.

Daguioman was the second of four Abra towns visited by the President on Thursday.

In Licuan-Baay, which was the last of the four towns she visited, the President said in Ilocano: "In Pampango, *licuan* means forgotten. In the Visayas, *baay* is a slang for *balay* (house). Thus, Licuan-Baay means a 'forgotten house.' But today we arrived (to prove) that the government did not forget Licuan-Baay. As President, I want progress, stable economy. We will give progress from the national government."

In Wayangan, Tubo, birthplace of the Mayor Jose Segundo who was gunned down on Dec. 27, the President met with the mayor's mother, Ina Canayan Lebe Segundo.

The President was joined in the meeting by Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, Presidential Assistant for Northern Luzon Renato Diaz, Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado of the Army's Northern Luzon Command, and Chief Supt. George Aliño, Cordillera police director.

The President assured the Segundo family of speedy investigation of the killing.

Aliño said the Task Force Segundo is looking into politics, involvement of the communist rebels and personal grudge as possible motives for the murder.

The four towns visited by the President received financial assistance and boxes of assorted medicines and bags of assorted goods.

In Tubo, Mayor Wilma Saguiyod Gattud gave the President a Tingguian dress. The President, in return, distributed certificates of land ownership to 535 farmer beneficiaries. ***With a report from the Philippine Information Agency***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas, Bicol Region, Marinduque and Romblon will experience stormy weather. The rest of Visayas and Southern Luzon will experience widespread rains with occasional gusty winds. Coastal waters of these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 28° Lo 18°
Baguio	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 22° Lo 09°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 27° Lo 16°
Laoag	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 29° Lo 17°
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 17°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 26° Lo 17°
Legazpi	Stormy	Hi 29° Lo 20°
Calapan	Rains with gusty winds	Hi 29° Lo 19°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains with gusty winds	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Roxas	Rains with gusty winds	Hi 26° Lo 24°
Cebu	Rains with gusty winds	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Rains with gusty winds	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 20°
Davao	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 22°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/01/13/02

ROUNDUP

Typhoon 'Agaton' nears

LEGAZPI CITY—Weathermen yesterday raised typhoon Signal No. 2 over Bicol despite sunny conditions as typhoon "Agaton" approached Eastern Samar. Antonio Arispe of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration regional office said rain clouds with a diameter of 500 kilometers were hovering near the eye of the typhoon. Rain was expected to hit the region this morning. Arispe advised vessels to postpone their trips. ***Tony S. Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Bad joke kills guard

MASBATE CITY—A deaf-mute killed a barangay *tanod* (village guard) in San Antonio village, Balud, Masbate, when the victim cracked a bad joke on him. Police reported that Raymund Castro, 48, a deaf-mute fisherman, stabbed dead his drinking partner, Reynaldo Capinig, 45, at a retail store on Wednesday night. Police said Castro was angered when Capinig joked about his manhood.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Suspected spy slain

GUINOBATAN, Albay—Suspected communist rebels yesterday shot dead a farmer and wounded his companion in Lumacao village on suspicions that they were military spies. Police identified the victims as Felipe Aytona, who died on the spot, and Lupo Ola, who was brought to the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital in Legazpi City. The victims were passing through the village when armed men believed to be New People's Army members chanced upon them and fired at them.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hooded men kill farmer

MASBATE CITY—Hooded men on Tuesday killed a farmer in front of his wife in Barangay MacArthur in Monreal town, Masbate. Police identified the victim as Nelson Gumban, 32. Investigators said Gumban was returning home with his wife Lorelle when they were waylaid by men wearing bonnets and armed with clubs and lead pipes. The attackers pounced on the victim until he fell down dead. The victim's wife told police that she could not identify the killers or ascertain their motive.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Tayabas historical meet

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute, in cooperation with the Lupong Paggunita sa Tayabas, Department of Education-Division of Quezon and Adhika-Quezon Chapter will hold its First Commemorative Conference on the "Tayabas Regiment 1843 Mutiny in Intramuros" at the Casa de Comunidad de Tayabas in Tayabas, Quezon, on Jan. 21. Historians and history professors have been invited to speak. The conference will highlight the heroism of Quezon soldiers who staged a mutiny in Intramuros in 1843 against the Spaniards who killed members of the Cofradia de San Jose headed by Apolinario de la Cruz (Hermano Pule).

Wage hike delay

NAGA CITY—A labor group scored the Department of Labor and Employment and the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board for their inaction on their demand for wage increases. Mar Regachuelo, secretary general of the Alliance of Democratic Labor Organization-Kilusang Mayo Uno, said the long delay has rendered fruitless the wage consultations conducted two months ago. The last time the board increased the take-home pay of Bicol workers was in November 2000 when the cost of living allowance rose by P20. Regachuelo said the workers' take-home pay, which included the Cola increase, amounted to P182 in the major cities and centers in Bicol.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

P32-M Spanish aid

EXACTLY P32 million in Spanish development aid will come early this year for the Community Health Program of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur. The two provinces were chosen by the Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional for being the poorest in the country. In a press statement, Cooperacion Espanola, the Spanish agency for technical cooperation, said it expected the public health program to run for three years and to be completed by the last quarter of 2004. Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja recently handed a P32-million check to the Philippine National Red Cross, which will carry out the health care program in partnership with the Cruz Roja Espanola (Spanish Red Cross).

Bishop urges talks with Abu

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Newly installed Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad said he wanted to talk peace with the Abu Sayyaf and convince the bandits to work together for the betterment of the war-torn island.

Jumoad, 46, was installed as the third bishop of Basilan on Thursday.

His predecessor, Bishop Romulo dela Cruz, was transferred to Antique after the Abu Sayyaf vowed to go after him because of his criticisms of the bandit group's activities.

Martin said there would be no substitute to a dialogue with the Abu Sayyaf, if the unstable peace and order condition on the island, were to be addressed.

"Let's work together. If we continue to wage war, there will be no progress in Basilan. Instead, there will be chaos," Jumoad said in an interview after his installation.

Jumoad, a native of Cebu, started his priesthood in Basilan with the late Bishop Jose Ma. Querexeta.

Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NEWLY ordained Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad leads a ceremony at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Zamboanga City. DENNIS SABANGAN

Terror suspect arrested after posting bail

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Suspected terrorist Hadi Youself Al-ghoul was taken by immigration agents on Friday just hours after he posted bail from charges of illegal possession of explosives.

Al-ghoul, a suspected member of an al-Qaida network in the country, was detained on Dec. 27 after explosives and bombing gadgets and anti-American documents were allegedly seized from his apartment in Bataan.

The Jordanian businessman calmly walked with Bureau of Immigration agents away from the Balanga City jail at 3:30 p.m. Friday. He had just posted a P150,000 bail.

Supt. Perfecto Palad, Bataan police director, said Al-ghoul was ordered arrested by the BI for being an illegal and undesirable alien.

The Jordanian was taken to Manila for detention. He had no documents to show for his stay in the Philippines for almost two decades.

His arrest in 1997 for a supposed involvement in the World Trade Center bombing that same year and his recent arrest for allegedly possessing 281 dynamite sticks, bombing gadgets and anti-American documents were the bases for his being considered an undesirable alien, Palad said.

Al-ghoul earlier complained of being accused without credible basis. He claimed he was framed by policemen who raided his apartment.

He said he would file charges against police officials who damaged his reputation through baseless charges.

Al-ghoul, who is married to a Muslim Filipina, almost got out of jail on Jan. 4 after he posted bail at the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court.

But Bataan Executive Judge Benjamin Vianzon stopped his release, saying the court in Olongapo has no jurisdiction over the case.

Vianzon accused Olongapo Judge Eliodoro Ubiadas of "ignorance of the law." Detainees can post bail only in courts where they are facing charges, Vianzon said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Armed men attack convoy escorting contested ballots

SURIGAO CITY—Unidentified armed men on Thursday ambushed a convoy escorting 913 "disputed" ballot boxes along Km. 96, Carrascal, Surigao del Sur.

The military said the attackers' target was the vehicle used by Surigao del Sur poll officials led by Alma Acosta, provincial election officer, and the vehicle containing the ballot boxes.

No one was hurt in the incident.

The convoy was on its way to this city to hand over the contested ballot boxes for transfer to the Commission on Elections in Manila for a recount.

The election controversy involves former Surigao del Sur Gov. Primo Murillo and incumbent Vice Gov. Librado Navarro.

Murillo was questioning his defeat to Navarro in the vice gubernatorial race last year. He charged that his defeat was brought by a massive anomaly and sought a recount of the ballot boxes.

Second Lt. Ryan Quisai of the Army's 28th Infantry Battalion, who led the escorting soldiers, said they were cruising near the Red Mountain when they were attacked with M-203 grenades.

Quisai said his group retaliated and was able to repulse the attackers.

Acosta said she believed the ambush was related to the dispute involving Murillo, an ally of ousted President Joseph Estrada and Navarro of Lakas.

Joan Murillo, wife of the former governor, said the ambush could have been the work of Navarro himself. "(The recount) could unseat him," she said.

Navarro won by 3,000 votes against Murillo.

Quisai said the military was looking into the involvement of the New People's Army in the incident.

Navarro could not be reached for comment as of press time. ***Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Suspect in bet's murder nabbed

BY MEI MAGSINO
AND DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TANAUAN CITY—After eight months, police arrested a suspect in the killing last year of Batangas gubernatorial candidate and former Tanauan City mayor Cesar Platon in Gumaca, Quezon.

Platon's wife Bhess received the news of the capture of Eduardo Vidal at 11:30 p.m. Friday from Nora Opillanio, the slain mayor's secretary, who positively identified the suspect from the scar on the back of his left hand.

Opillano was with Platon when he was gunned down at 2 a.m. on May 7, 2001. The victim had gone to a popcorn stand at the back of the stage after his speech at the People Power Coalition *miting de avance* at the Tuy town plaza.

Opillanio said Vidal shot Platon at the back of his head four times with a .45 cal. pistol.

Bhess said her family was glad at the development. "I don't hate the gunman," she said, "I know he had been paid to kill my husband."

In Lucena City, policemen involved in Vidal's arrest were tight-lipped.

"We have to maintain strict confidentiality on any information because any leak could preempt ongoing operations," Supt. Roberto Rosales, Quezon police chief, said.

The suspect is now in police custody somewhere in Lucena, a source said.

When pressed for details, the source belied an earlier report that communist rebels were behind the killing. "It appeared more of a job of a professional gun-for-hire."

The New People's Army's Melito Glor Command, in a press statement, claimed responsibility for Platon's murder on the same day.

It said Platon had "a long list of criminal cases against the people, such as heading a gang of car thieves and gunrunning syndicate, giving protection to a drug syndicate and violating human rights."

But Tirso "Ka Bart" Alcantara, spokesperson of the NPA in Southern Tagalog, denied issuing the statement.

He said Platon might be in their hit list, but the NPA did not order his liquidation.

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

'Faith bridges, peace builds'

BY MARRIO R. R. MAPANAO

BARANGAY Pagangan in Aleosan, North Cotabato was the venue of an out-of-the ordinary gathering late last month, with 165 Christian and Muslim parents, youths, children and visitors celebrating Christmas Day.

The site was the Peace Build, a special project of the Midsayap Habitat for Humanity and Aleosan Task Force which was launched in March last year in the aftermath of the all-out war declared in 2000 by the Estrada administration against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

During the celebration, Sister Alma of the Brahma Kumaris referred to a quotation on a Habitat t-shirt: "Love Heals, Faith Bridges and Peace Builds."

"This reflects the essence of each and everyone's participation in this project," she said.

From the smiles of school children milling around, Sister Alma said she saw faces of happiness and peace, not of sorrow.

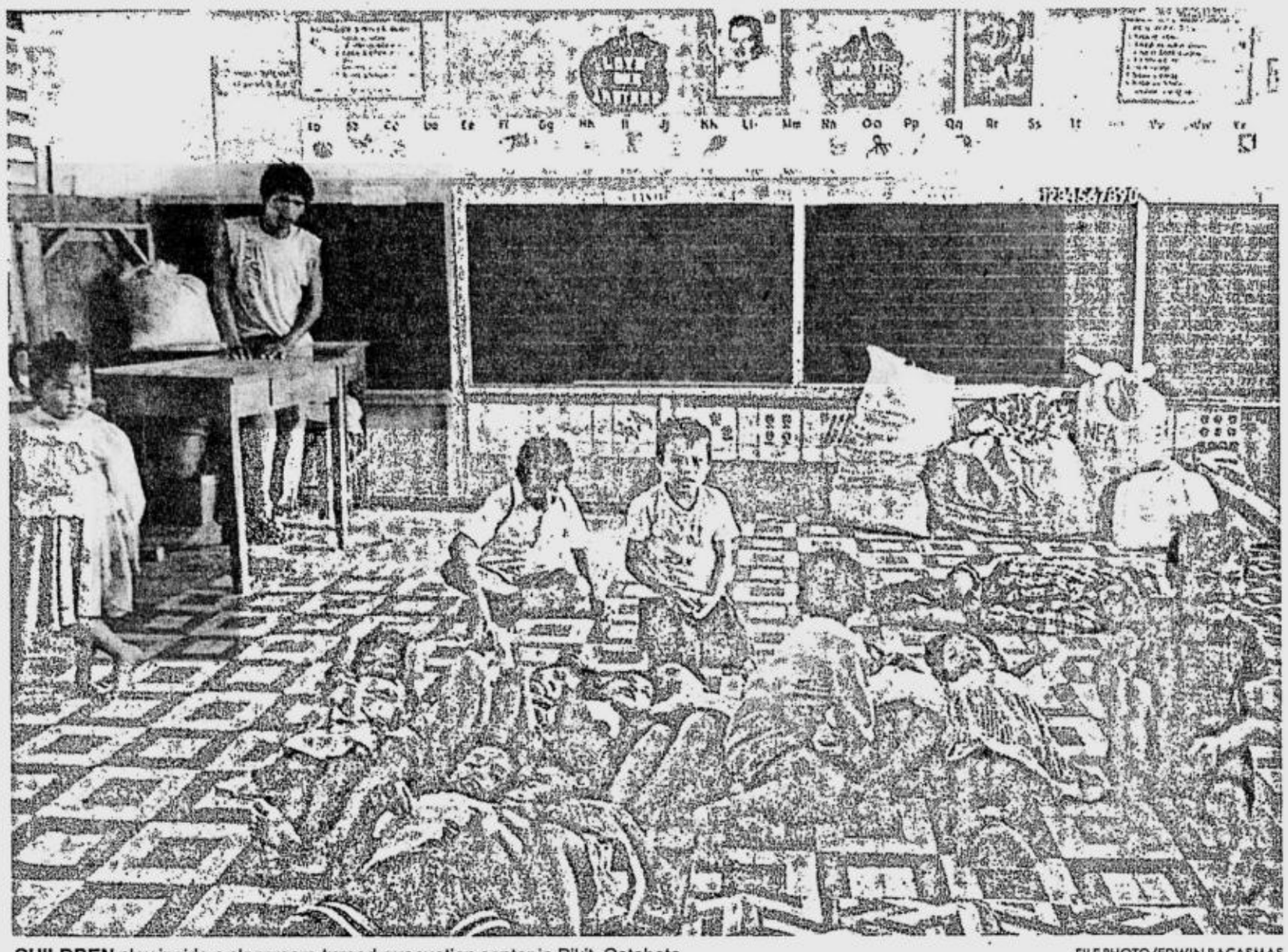
The only one of its kind among the Habitat projects in the country and the world over, Peace Build is dedicated "to promote peace through constructing simple, decent and affordable housing by rebuilding the lives and homes of families affected by man-made calamity.

A total of 200 low-cost houses is being targeted to be built.

Presently, 14 houses for Christian families have been constructed in four sites in Barangays Pagangan 1 and 2. The houses, made of locally available clayish earth block, are said to withstand the impact of bullets.

The venue of the community celebration was Lower Pagangan, a Maguindanaon sitio where 15 houses were being completed.

Bai Malaga Saligan donated a half hectare of land as housing site. Through a translator, she said: "*Kung puede man lang, hindi kami at ang proyekto madaanan ng giyera . . . at kung mangyari man uli, wala na kaming maibabayad* (If it can be willed, war should spare our place and project . . and if it would ever happen again, we won't be able to pay for anything)."



CHILDREN play inside a classroom-turned-evacuation center in Pikit, Cotabato. FILE PHOTO/EDWIN BACASMAS

Saligan was referring to the four times that that the community had to evacuate—in 1976, 1986, 1989 and in May 2000.

Home partners

To get to the fifth Peace Build site, the Christian home partners and their families from the present four sites had to cross Nalapaan in adjacent Pikit town, and walk two kilometers.

One could but just imagine the Muslim home partners carrying on their backs and on carabao sleds construction materials like sand and gravel, hollow blocks and lumber from the quarrying area, a kilometer away from the Moro National Liberation Front outpost which was the nearest point of transportation.

The provincial government promised to help repair the road by providing filling materials.

The Habitat house actually cost P55,000 for both Christian and Muslim home partners, to be amortized over a period of 15 years. For the first year, P106 in cash or kind will be collected monthly, to be followed by yearly increments.

The amount is lower than the real cost estimated at P75,000 because of the "sweat equity" of home partners and volunteers.

Some 100 Christian and Muslim adults and 65 youths and children attended the unusual get-together. They included representatives of civil society groups from Midsayap.

But where's the food?

While the 29 partner-families now have houses, the irony is that they have no food on their tables because of the dry spell that occurred before the rain came late last year. During that time, they had to help build their houses as their counterpart effort for the Habitat program instead of working in their farms.

And for the Muslim families, there was the added constraint of drawing from reserve energies in order to practice the spiritual discipline of fasting during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, while spending some time to work their fields and build their houses.

Highlight of the Christmas program was the collective and individual introductions of everybody present, calling on the families to come to the front to be recognized. At times, explanations were given on why some people were absent because one partner had to eke out a living.

Questions

For the youths and children, a "Game ka na ba?" contest was held, with donated candies and other goodies given as prizes. Among the questions were: What is the floor area of a Peace Build house? How many square meters is the land area on which a house is built? How many GI sheets are needed to roof one house? The answers are 30 sq.m. 10x20 sq.m. and 61 GI sheets.

Other questions asked were the names of the Christian foreman and the two wives of Ustadz Mokalam.

The Cotabato Rural Uplift Movement (Corum) gave several kilos of rice for all the home partners, courtesy of a generous Christian family in Gingoog City in Misamis Oriental, and brooms from Mt. Apo settlers in Kapatagan, Digos City.

Planting materials were brought by the Southern Christian College–Community Education, Research and Extension Administration, which assumes part of the work of Corum. The movement is folding up after 35 years of building bridges of development and understanding among Muslim and Christian communities.

Jun Casipe, board chair of the Midsayap Habitat program, said his first time to visit Lower Pagangan was a revelation, helping break the culture of fear and mistrust prevalent even among the board members.

At the end of the program, stones painted in different colors with "Peace" (*kalilintad* in Maguindanaon) were distributed by Ira Soriano, social work student volunteer of the Integral Development Services, to all those present. Under the shade of a makeshift canvas tent and to the singing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth," everyone gathered in a circle and exchanged stones.

The participants made sure they remember who gave them the stones. Next Christmas, they can draw from their memories how a community of Christians and Muslims came to celebrate peace.

Marrio R. R. Mapanao joined the "Balik-to-Mindanao" movement in mid-1997 after spending time in Manila and Hong Kong. As a "sayap kulturanhong" advocate, he organized the Mindanao peace tour of the folk band Asin last October and November, consisting of nine full concert stops across the island. The largest turnout of 10,000 people was at the free concert held in Barangay Nuro, Upi, Maguindanao.

The Prince of Peace gets a toast from Agape

BY MARIA CECIL B. LAGUARDIA
Zamboanga City

PA Abdu, a Samal community leader in Sangali, Zamboanga City, said they were up all night preparing for the big day.

"Halos hindi kami natulog sa pagluluto ng pagkain at mga preparasyon. Lahat gustong sumama (We had little sleep cooking food and making preparations. Everybody wanted to join)," he said.

The two buses that ferried them to the 1st Grand Family Day of the Agape Human Development Foundation Inc. at the Joaquin Enriquez Sports Complex on Jan. 5 were filled to the brim.

Agape, a people's organization, has existed since the 1970s. It is assisted by the World Vision Development Foundation. *Agape* is a Greek word for "unconditional, divine love."

"*Para kaming mga sardinas* (We were packed like sardines)," Abdu said. Others who wanted to come had to be turned down. Some mothers had two children on their laps.

Sangali, one of the city's 102 barangays, is a 45-minute drive from the city proper. Eighty percent of its people are Christians, and the rest Muslims.

As soon as the buses had parked, the passengers were joined by delegates in other buses that came from 13 barangays: Baliwasan, Camino Nuevo, Guiwan, Labuan, Lunzuran, Luzville, Pasovilla, San Jose Gusu, San Roque, Shanty Town, Sinunuc, Upper Calarian and Zambowood.

By 8:30 a.m., the sports complex teemed with more than 7,000 delegates, who filled the benches at both ends. They included the Agape parents, children, relatives and friends, 30 percent of whom are Muslim Samals, Tausugs, Yakans and Badjaos.

"*Nakakalula sa dami* (The crowd made us dizzy)," some parents commented.

Celebration of unity

But everybody knew it was more than just a Family Day. It was a celebration of unity in the Filipino family and the role of the Child Jesus as the Prince of Peace.

Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat, in a message she sent, lauded the Agape for "the assistance it delivers to thousands of children from less fortunate families in our city."

She urged the children to "use the opportunity" provided by Agape "to improve their lives and meaningfully contribute to the development of their communities."

Under the World Vision child sponsorship program, the two projects handled by Agape have benefited a total of 2,700 children. The projects are J-Jireh I covering 13 barangays and J-Jireh II covering only Barangay Sangali.

The sponsorship is a holistic transformational development program that not only provides education for the children but also looks after their health, spiritual and economic needs. It "provides sustainable mechanisms" to ensure a better life and brighter future for them.

In some areas, Agape granted loans to the children's parents for their livelihood projects.

Councilor Maria Isabel Climaco, whom Mayor Lobregat sent to the affair as representative, extolled the importance of a closely knit family by telling the audience how she was raised a better person by her now deceased "*Nana y Tata*" (mother and father).

A YOUTH contingent arrives for the 1st Grand Family Day of the Agape Human Development Foundation Inc. at the Joaquin Enriquez Sports Complex in Zamboanga City. MARIA CECIL LAGUARDIA

Despite their absence, "they are still with her in spirit," guiding her everyday, she said.

She then led the crowd in reciting an interpretative poem she learned from childhood, "Happy is the man who puts his trust in the Lord," later translating it into Chavacano, the local language.

Climaco is the niece of the popular and fiery former mayor, Cesar Climaco, who bravely led the city in denouncing the Marcos dictatorship in the '70s and early '80s.

Youth presentations

The hit song "Angelina" may well have been the theme song of the occasion, having been played several times for the various presentations prepared by the different areas.

Raymond Jay Despalo, a 3-year-old from Baliwasan, wowed the crowd with his dance interpretation of the song. When asked who taught him, he answered with a mischievous grin, "*Ako lang* (Just me)." His mother nodded proudly.

John Patrick Manuel, a first grader at the Tumaga Elementary School, held the audience breathless with his fast medley of Christmas and peace songs, capping them with a heart-rending rendition of "Gloria in Excelsis Deo."

As he took his late lunch after checking if his people had eaten well, Pa Abdu expressed happiness for coming in the family day. "*Talagang hinihintay namin ang pagkakataong ito. Masayang-masaya kami na magkakasama kami.* (This is a much-awaited occasion for us. We are very happy that we are a part of it)."

Asked how they were treated, he said they were all like brothers in Agape. "*Talagang parang magkakapatid ang aming relasyon dito* (We are all like siblings here)."

Fellowship

The Sangali youth group, mostly Samals, led by 14-year-old Haipa Haman of the Sangali National High School, danced the *pakiring* gracefully to the tune of "Dayang-dayang."

During the fellowship, they got to know other youth groups within Agape. They gained a friend in Muslim youth leader Syed Mukthar Tahir from the Zamboanga City High School, who came to witness the gathering.

The Agape Youth Community, composed of Muslim and Christian leaders, was organized last month. The group, led by its president Bonavie Ordinario, a Tausug from Barangay San Roque, aims to spearhead the peace activities of Agape. It plans to hold a peacebuilding and orientation meeting on the last week of the month.

The parlor games broke all remaining barriers as Muslim and Christian delegates were grouped together. The laughter and cheers rang loud and clear, as if signaling better times ahead among the different tribes living in the city.

Agape provided assistance in the food and transportation expenses of the delegates. To ensure a sumptuous meal together, some parents contributed to the budget.

Grand affair

Previously, Agape officials led by Maharlika Avila, president of the board of trustees, sponsored separate celebrations for J-Jireh I and II. But when they realized that it was a good opportunity for the tribes to come together, the officials decided to start holding an annual grand celebration this year.

According to coordinator Bebot Frayco, this was the first time that J-Jireh I and II were joined in a Family Day celebration. With its multi-ethnic composition, it served as a test for the tribes, especially while doing peace activities.

The event was worth looking forward to by Muslim and Christian families as a way of fostering harmony and understanding among the different tribes of Zamboanga as they follow in the footsteps of the Child Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

As Lobregat said, "Each new year should take us nearer to that noble goal. Each new year is an opportunity to tailor our lives according to the view of the Creator."

Agape has started doing its part.

Hunt for plotters begins

(From page A1)

peace process, had earlier said lawmen were hunting down the PMAP leaders to convince them to drop their plan to launch a so-called "Edsa IV."

In a radio interview yesterday, PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit said the intelligence community was closely monitoring groups that might cause disturbance at the start of the People Power II anniversary activities.

Maralit also said a sufficient number of policemen would be deployed all over the metropolis early on to thwart any such plan and to avert possible clashes between supporters and critics of the Macapagal administration during the celebration.

'All air'

At Fort del Pilar, where the Philippine Military Academy yesterday honored him and nine other police generals, Mendoza dismissed talk about a destabilization or coup plot from within the PNP as "all air."

"We don't see signs of recruitment for destabilization moves or a coup plot in the PNP ranks," he said in Taglish. "I think with what the President has done (for) us, there's no reason (for us) to be disgruntled or unhappy."

But Mendoza said the possible links between the destabilization plot and the Edsa II anniversary celebration would not be taken lightly.

Himself an Edsa II player, Mendoza said the polarization of the forces that ousted Estrada and installed Ms Macapagal in Malacañang was "repairable."

"We should see each other, we should talk to each other," he said. "It's really just a matter of perception. Some observations by some (Edsa II) participants offered some dissatisfaction. That's normal. You cannot satisfy everybody. There are people who are dissatisfied."

Nevertheless, Mendoza said, plotters had not succeeded in penetrating the PNP.

He said the 2002 budget that allocated an increase in policemen's pay this year would neutralize any discontent in the PNP.

"Among the agencies in government, it's only the PNP who received a 70-percent (budgetary) increase," he said, adding:

"Upon the signing of the 2002 General Appropriations Act, we will receive a salary increase of 40-70 percent.

Republic Act No. 8551 mandates that the salary of (policemen) should be equal to that of the teachers. We've been awaiting this since 1998, and it will be fully implemented in 2002.

"So why would (anyone in the PNP) be disgruntled?"

On Friday, the President confirmed a destabilization plot against her administration, but refused to give details.

She said the plotters would not succeed because they had been "caught with their pants down."

Critics and allies

The President yesterday modified her earlier call for healing to include not only her critics but also her allies.

"I call now on the anniversary of People Power for a dialogue, for a return to the process of healing," she said at the end of her weekly program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo."

"I extend my thanks to my allies and my hand of peace and reconciliation to my detractors," she added. "I invite the members of the administration (and) the opposition for a nonpartisan dialogue so that together we can help uplift the quality of lives of the Filipinos."

As though on cue, Salvador Enriquez, chair of the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA) that had accused the First Couple of corruption, urged the public to let the President prove her worth.

"My call is, let's give her a chance. Let her prove that she can carry out good governance and she can effect change in her government," Enriquez said at the weekly Kapihan sa Cypress.

But despite Enriquez's statement, PCA secretary general Linda Montayre continued to call on the public "to wear black" during the commemoration of People Power II as a sign of indignation over Ms Macapagal's governance.

She said the PCA and its allies in the anti-Estrada movement were now firming up mass actions in time for the commemoration.

Marketplace of ideas

In an apparent effort to justify the differing views within the PCA, Enriquez said the group was "a marketplace of ideas."

On Friday, former President Fidel V. Ramos said he had phoned Enriquez and told his former budget secretary not to involve him in the PCA's affairs.

Enriquez yesterday admitted that Ramos had phoned him. But he said his decision to go easy on Ms Macapagal was solely his.

In fact, Enriquez said, Ramos' declaration that he had nothing to do with the PCA should prove the group's independence.

"In my opinion, before we get into those more dramatic (modes) of change, instead of a change in leaders, maybe (Ms Macapagal) herself should change," Enriquez said.

But he clarified that his statement did not change the PCA's dim view of Ms Macapagal's governance.

Montayre said Ramos' statement regarding the PCA did not disturb her.

"He never said that he disagrees with our views," she said in a phone interview. "He only said he is not part of what we are doing. We have never said he was behind us."

She pointed out that because of Enriquez's having served in the Ramos Cabinet, they could never "shake off" the perception that the ex-President was allied with them.

'Psywar'

Teodoro Casiño, secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, expressed doubt that Ramos was serious in rebuking Enriquez and Montayre and disclaiming involvement in PCA activities.

"That's how a shrewd psywar expert will do it," Casiño said yesterday in a radio interview. He pointed out that Ramos was silent and was "tolerating" the PCA's threat to call out another people power uprising against the administration.

Casiño also said Bayan had never been supportive of the PCA.

"They were hiding their true agenda," he said. "The problem is they cannot pinpoint the groups supporting them. There were times when they even claimed we were aligned with them. But they do not talk or coordinate with us, so we see them as having a different agenda."

Casiño said Montayre's recent call for a civilian-military junta showed the PCA's true colors.

"To me this is a return to martial law," he said, adding that in such a setup, "civilians will just be puppets, and the military will call the shots."

He said it was now clear that the PCA was "under Ramos." As to whether its call for a civilian-military junta had the ex-President's blessing, "this is a big question mark."

Still, Casiño said, it was also possible that the PCA had its own agenda and was only using Ramos to advance its own interests.

In an official statement, Casiño said: "For the sake of accuracy, we would like to make it clear that at this point Bayan has not called for President Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster or resignation.

"We are opposing her government's anti-people policies and her presidential bid in 2004. We also said we will work for her replacement before 2004 if the conditions call for it, meaning if the crisis worsens to the point that we have no choice than to do another Edsa."

In a phone interview, Montayre denied having said that the PCA had Bayan's support. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum; Dona Z. Pazzibugan; and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, contributor***

Joker most frugal solon

(From page A1)

not serve a full term. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II was appointed trade secretary, Amelita Villarosa was ousted by the House electoral tribunal and her seat was occupied by Ricardo Quintos, and Romeo Jalosjos was suspended.

Two Lanao congressmen had the biggest expenditure: Mamintal Adiong of Lanao del Sur spent P6.8 million while Abdullah Mangotara of Lanao del Norte spent P6.3 million.

Total: P1.34 billion

For the year 2000, taxpayers coughed up a total of P1.34 billion to pay for the salaries, foreign and local travels, office equipment, communications, central and district office staff and consultants, research and "public affairs funds" of the 222 congressmen and 22 senators.

The previous Senate spent P249 million while the House spent P1.09 billion.

In the previous Senate, Sen. Rene Cayetano had the lowest expenditure at P10.10 million.

Close on his heels were Franklin Drilon (now Senate President) with P10.17 million in expenses, Teofisto Guingona Jr. (now Vice President) with P10.28 million, and Teresa Aquino-Oreta with P10.77 million.

The biggest spender was Sen. Vicente Sotto III with P12.92 million in expenses. Sen. Robert Jaworski was next with P12.30 million in expenses.

Four other senators spent over P12 million in 2000: Anna Dominique Coseteng with P12.28 million, Juan Ponce Enrile with P12.20 million, Francisco Tatad with P12.05 million, and Blas Ople with P12.04 million.

One-man office

Arroyo had kept his expenses to a minimum because he did not spend people's money for foreign travel or for the purchase of office equipment, furniture and fixture.

He also did not have any office staff.

Arroyo was known to have carried out his duties as congressman of Makati City with only his personal driver and a utility man around. He spent P473,000 for their salaries.

In contrast, almost all of the congressmen employed a minimum of seven people in their central office. This is aside from the other staff employed in their district offices.

They spent an average of P1.8 million for their staff's salary.

It was common knowledge in Congress that either Arroyo himself or his driver would answer telephone calls in his office.

And when he was not in his office, he was most likely in the session hall. Arroyo registered a 100-percent attendance in the House in his nine years there.

There was a time when Arroyo had even let some staff of then Rep. Bonifacio Gillego use his office so his colleague could have more office space.

He also wrote, by hand, his press statements and would deliver them in person at the House media center.

The congressman answered his mails personally.

'Not a conscious effort'

Arroyo said he made a conscious effort to register a perfect attendance in the House, "because I believe legislators should not be truant."

"But the thriftiness, it was not a conscious effort. It just came (about)," he explained.

But he said he was not sorry for being prudent with the people's money.

His new colleagues in the Senate found Arroyo's scrimping odd.

Sen. Edgardo Angara had called attention to this when he recently said during a Senate session that a driver had answered the phone in Arroyo's office.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III reportedly peeks in Arroyo's office every day on his way to his own office and tells Arroyo of his observation that nobody seems to be there.

Arroyo however said he might find it difficult to sustain his tradition of being a one-man office in the Senate where he heads two major committees—the Blue Ribbon and the public services.

Sotto, big spender

In 2000, the senator who had the biggest expenditure for staff salaries and benefits was Sotto with P7.3 million. Drilon had the lowest staff expenditure with P1.6 million.

Each senator was paid an annual basic pay of P420,000 and incurred a fixed P212,000 budget for local travel, and over P370,000 in extraordinary expenses.

Sen. Blas Ople had the biggest expenses for foreign travel, incurring P1.2 million. His staff used up P782,393 for foreign travel, an amount higher than that spent by any other senator except their boss.

Barbers, who was absent for several months in 2000 to undergo surgery in the United States, was the second biggest spender for foreign travel with P550,545, followed by Cayetano and Jaworski who incurred more than P500,000 each.

The senators spent a total of P56.8 million for maintenance and other operating expenses and P4.4 million for supplies, P14.8 million for meetings and conferences, P5.3 million for consultancy fees and P10.4 million for office rental.

The itemized audited list of expenses was published in accordance with regulations. However, the list was published in the inside pages of a newspaper on Dec. 26 when most people were focused on the holiday celebrations.

Journey to peace began on grandma's lap

(From page A1)

be about seven or eight years old standing by the side of the road, a carved wooden armalite cradled in his arms. As our convoy of military vehicles rumbled past, I looked back in time to see the child taking imaginary potshots at us. Now while the sight may not be altogether uncommon in this day and age, it still gave me quite a shock. Unlike in the big city where this kind of behavior can easily be blamed on too much exposure to TV violence, in that place where a reliable supply of electricity is a luxury and TV sets are few and far between, I could only surmise that this child was acting out not a scene from some war movie but one from his own reality.

This realization was sharpened as we went into the heart of the territories held by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and I saw more and more gun-toting children between the ages 10 and 15, this time with real guns. Puzzled, I decided to dedicate myself to reading and knowing more about Mindanao's history, the history of Islam, the culture of the Moros, their way of life, and the roots of conflict.

This was the next step in my journey. As I read, I learned, and then slowly I grew to understand why peace has been so elusive in this part of Mindanao.

However, like St. Augustine by the beach, I soon realized that for one person to try to grasp the intricacies of the Mindanao problem in its entirety would be like pouring the waters of the ocean into a hole in the sand. To understand the problem of Mindanao and to come up with just and lasting peace would take the collective effort of all the people involved—Muslims, Christians, Lumads, the MILF, the government, the media establishments, private business, Filipinos from all walks of life.

Significant step

How do we galvanize all these people into taking a positive step toward the attainment of peace in Mindanao? Being involved in the media, I naturally turned to it to achieve my goals. Through the documentary, "Mindanao: Healing the Past, Building the Future," I attempted to chronicle the lives of those affected by the conflict. But again, even as I was trying to show what was happening, I too was seeing. And the more I saw, the more I knew I needed to show more.

Making the documentary was a significant step in my journey toward a more complete understanding of the Mindanao problem. I learned that peace can be achieved in communities when trust is rebuilt in the people's hearts and minds. But there is a process to this effort. The community's basic needs must first be attended to. Trust is built through communication. Respect for the other's way of life is essential. There must be a conscious effort to de-emphasize our differences and to focus more on our common humanity.

And because the Moros and the Lumads have become a minority, it is the Christian majority who are morally obligated to take the initial effort to reach out and establish relationships with their neighbors. The many wars fought between the government and the Bangsamoro armies of the Moro National Liberation Front and now the MILF have deeply scarred the land and its peoples.

So many atrocities have been committed by both sides that it would be ludicrous for anyone to engage in finger-pointing. What is important now is to hasten the process of rebuilding the burnt homes and shattered lives of the civilians—Muslim, Lumad and Christian—who were caught in the crossfire.

Bombs and bullets kill and maim irrespective of the God you pray to. In Central Mindanao, where there is so much shared history, it is sad to note that today the people are united only in their common misery. The consequence of war is generational. The biases and distrust deepen with every generation. While it is true that the gap between the problem and its ultimate solution remains wide, I still believe that peace is achievable, but only if we all work together.

Like I said earlier, this problem is bigger than any one person, bigger than Muslim arms or Christian zeal, bigger than hate or mistrust. But it can never be bigger than love.

Space for peace

Even as I was completing the first documentary, I was already thinking of doing another to show the people's plight as they are caught in the crossfire of war. I realized that for the culture of peace to reach a thousand hearts, their stories must reach a thousand souls. It was a godsend that film director Marilou Diaz-Abaya was then looking for a story for her next film.

A common friend of ours, Fr. Rene Javellana, SJ, advised her to consult me because he knew that I was also looking for someone to help me produce my documentary. I brought Marilou to the evacuation centers in Parang, Matanog and Pikit. In Pikit, I introduced her to Fr. Bert Leyson, the dedicated priest of the Immaculate Conception parish who is credited for the return of the evacuees to their land and the rehabilitation of their homes and livelihood.

It was also through Father Leyson's efforts that Barangay Nalapaan in Pikit, Cotabato, was declared a sanctuary of peace by the community. Guns, government troops and armed MILF members are not allowed to enter the barangay. Through the people's initiative, this peace effort is holding up. Within his parish, several evacuation centers had been set up.

One in particular, an unofficial camp established in the compound of the village datu, provided Marilou a treasure trove of narratives that eventually formed the body of "Bagong Buwan." The stories in the datu's "camp," as told by the *babu*, the village matriarch, and countless other evacuees, were so resonant that we knew right then that a short documentary would never do. It would take a full-length film to tell this story.

"Bagong Buwan" is, therefore, a composite of real-life stories from men, women and children in the evacuation centers. The dialogue is the Moro's perspective of history and of the Christians. It is not fiction in the usual sense of the word but history unfolding.

The making of the film took two years. This was a conscious decision on our part because we wanted to be as close to reality as possible. The gravity of the subject matter compelled us to be faithful to the facts lest we aggravate an already bad situation.

We devoted hundreds of hours on research, even conducting focus group discussions with various sectors of society, religious leaders and scholars. Scriptwriters Jun Lana, Ricky Lee and Marilou read and studied the Koran and virtually camped out on the doorstep of our consultants, Prof. Michael Mastura and Fr. Eliseo Mercado, OMI.

Of course, this being a movie, we needed to deliver the package via a story that would appeal to a wide range of moviegoers. But at the same time we had the added burden of coming up with a story line that would be credible in our particular setting.

We chose to focus on a conflict that is familiar in Muslim families—that of two brothers, one a professional and the other a warrior. It was equally important that the culture of peace be injected in the final script. This we tried to do in the interaction between Muslims and Christians during the interfaith scenes, and in the portrayal of Achmad (Cesar Montano), Fatima (Amy Austria) and Farida (Caridad Sanchez) in their hopes for peace. The peace worker, Jason (Jhong Hilario), is the embodiment of the countless volunteers, many of them Christians, selflessly performing their tasks in the evacuation centers distributing relief goods and attending to the sick and hungry.

Why Cesar was that way

During the pre-filming workshops, as the members of the cast began to internalize their roles, I believed that many also experienced a growing sense of awareness of the Mindanao situation that they never cared for in the past.

As they journeyed together in an unwavering quest for peace, so did their personal stake in the project grow. Perhaps this is why Cesar acted the way he did—not because "Bagong Buwan" was a better picture, but because he believed in the value that the movie contributes to nation building and the peace process.

In the meantime, I was searching for investors to help fund the project. After a year, and a new administration, I spoke to Gabby Lopez who agreed to co-produce the film with my outfit, Bahaghari Productions, and Entertainment Inc. In my partnership with ABS-CBN, I would be the first to admit that I was very lucky because they truly assisted me in making this movie a reality. I salute their courage in helping produce this film, despite the then conventional wisdom that said it would be unpopular.

The years of making "Bagong Buwan" have so far been the most exciting in my own journey to understand Mindanao and its people. I will admit that the film is an act of courage because it attempts to show the Muslim issue in a new light. From the outset we were warned that any subject on Mindanao could be unpopular. Added to this was the apprehension that the majority of Christians, particularly those living outside Mindanao, would not at all be interested in the movie's subject matter.

As I mulled over these warnings, I thought that I would rather face the critical disapproval of the audience than its disinterested apathy. Fortunately, I didn't have to face either. The number of people who watched "Bagong Buwan" was proof that our objectives in making the film were met. True, we might have disturbed the sensibilities of those with deep-seated biases (and here I am thinking of my grandmother and how she would react to the film). But I have faith that if we only take the time to examine the issues involved in this conflict, we will be able to see that we have more in common with each other than we have differences. After all, we are all God's children, and His plans always prevail.

Ultimately it is never the awards but the seeds of change that we are able to plant in the hearts of our viewers that matter. In this, I know we were able to deliver the "best picture" that we possibly could.

Int'l bank, gov't sign agreement on $1-B RP recovery fund

(From page A1)

hurdle to pressing ahead with its low-income housing development plans.

The year-old Macapagal administration has made housing a major platform of its anti-poverty program, targeting 150,000 houses a year for workers and urban poor families.

The administration has also been concerned at the growing level of bad loans in the banking sector as a result of sluggish domestic and global demand.

Non-performing loans of commercial banks in the Philippines as of October had risen to 18.81 percent of all loans from 17.92 percent in September.

The statement said the fund would provide a major investment vehicle to finance new government mass housing projects and help tackle P270 billion in non-performing loans and P150 billion in foreclosed assets.

Other officials, however, have estimated that non-performing loans of banks had topped P461 billion.

The bad debts "have saddled the Philippine financial system and stymied the country's economic recovery in recent years," the joint statement said.

Fresh capital

Bhattal said Lehman Brothers would also provide capital to private enterprises and banks, invest in new economic projects and work to develop the domestic capital market by issuing securities backed by performing residential mortgages, government royalties and other similar assets.

"We will utilize our leading global position in structured finance to introduce new investment products to assist in developing a sustainable and liquid domestic capital market system for residential mortgages and other types of structured finance products," Bhattal said.

Under the MOU with the government, Lehman's has proposed securitizing the performing portion of the state's residential mortgage portfolio while undertaking an outright sale of the non-performing portion.

These transactions would have the effect of providing the government with liquidity, lowering interest rates and creating a strong local capital market, aside from expanding home ownership and generating employment.

Removing non-performing loans from the banking sector would "potentially stimulate renewed lending in all sectors including the real estate sector," the statement quoted Camacho and Bhattal as saying.

This would also be in line with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' renewed efforts to reduce the amount of bad loans held by the banking system.

The main beneficiaries of the fund would not only be banks but also "distressed borrowers whose businesses would be rebuilt so that they could become performing assets again," the joint statement said.

On Monday, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. confirmed that Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. had signed a memorandum of understanding to set up an asset management company that would buy more than an estimated P15 billion in bad loans from the bank.

For their part, Ms Macapagal and De Venecia vowed to speed up the passage of laws that would pave the way for foreign-owned asset management companies in acquiring bad loans of banks and engaging in securitization.

The Palace said Lehman Brothers was also prepared to invest in the securitization of the proceeds from the Malampaya natural gas field off the coast of Palawan which started commercial production last year.

Lehman Brothers also assured Ms Macapagal that it was prepared to invite other international investment companies to support her administration.

Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, January 13, 2002
Baptism of the Lord

1st Reading: Is 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the Lord,

"Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight.

I have put my spirit upon him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

He does not shout or raise his voice, proclamations are not heard in the streets.

A broken reed he will not crush, nor will he snuff out the light of the wavering wick.

He will make justice appear in truth.

He will not waver or be broken until he has established justice on earth; the islands are waiting for his law.

I, Yahweh, have called you for the sake of justice; I will hold your hand to make you firm; I will make you as a covenant to the people, and as a light to the nations, to open eyes that do not see, to free captives from prison, to bring out to light those who sit in darkness."

2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38

Peter then spoke to them, "Truly, I realize that God does not show partiality, but in all nations he listens to everyone who fears God and does good. And this is the message he has sent to the children of Israel, the good news of peace he has proclaimed through Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of all. No doubt you have heard of the event that occurred throughout the whole country of the Jews, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism John preached. You know how God anointed Jesus the Nazarean with Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all who were under the devil's power, because God was with him.

Gospel: Mt 3:13-17

At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent him, and said, "How is it you come to me: I should be baptized by you!"

But Jesus answered him, "Let it be like that for now that we may fulfill the right order." John agreed.

As soon as he was baptized, Jesus came up from the water. At once, the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God come down like a dove and rest upon him. At the same time a voice from heaven was heard, "This is my Son, the Beloved; he is my Chosen One."

Commentary

It is amazing! We identify baptism with that water poured out on our little heads. There were more important elements like the recognition of being beloved sons and daughters of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit to mark out lives forever; we were given a human and Christian identity and began, though still unaware, our mission. But even if we pay attention only to the less important element, the water, we can learn a lot from it. Water keeps running its course only by going down. By going down like in profound humility and simplicity, water brings freshness and life to everything it touches. The document "The Church in Asia" defines the mission of the Church in our continent as "service to life." The water taught us that lesson during our baptism.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (PROPERTY)—Possession and ownership—Possession and ownership are distinct legal concepts. Ownership exists when a thing pertaining to one person is completely subjected to his will in a manner not prohibited by law and consistent with the rights of others. Ownership confers certain rights to the owner, one of which is the right to dispose of the thing by way of sale xxx On the other hand, possession is defined as the holding of a thing or the enjoyment of a right. Literally, to possess means to actually and physically occupy a thing with or without right. Possession may be had in one of two ways: possession in the concept of an owner and possession of a holder. Possessors in the concept of owners may be the owners themselves or those who claim to be so. On the other hand, those who possess as mere holders acknowledge in another a superior right which he believes to be ownership, whether his belief be right or wrong. In this case, the evidence shows that the occupation of the property by petitioners is not in the concept of owners because their stay is merely tolerated. An owner's act of allowing another to occupy his house rent-free does not create a permanent and indefeasible right of possession in the latter's favor. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, Tabuso v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 108558, June 21, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

They saved constitutional system from collapse

(From page A1)

manifested intentions to step down, the President had decided to stonewall.

The standoff fanned the clamor from the massed crowds at the Edsa Shrine to storm Malacañang if Estrada did not quit. Acting on an urgent request from the Vice President, who asked Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to swear her in as president to avert a possible bloodbath, the Chief Justice administered the oath at 12:29 p.m. of Jan. 20.

The specter of a civil war provided the nightmarish background against which events during the six hours of stalemate swirled toward the oath-taking climax and cast the court in the pivotal role of legitimizing a non-violent transfer of power to a new government.

At that moment of the most serious constitutional crisis of the Republic since the 1986 People Power upheaval, only one Philippine state institution had the credibility and the moral authority to avert the plunge toward violent conflict, and it was the Supreme Court.

The authority and capacity of the presidency to govern effectively had been eroded by the venalities of the regime now under siege from the second people power movement after 1986. The authority of Congress was a shambles following the controversial Senate majority decision to suppress evidence in Estrada's impeachment trial. The political parties, which had lost their traditional constituencies, were in disarray. And the Cabinet was crippled by resignations of most of its members.

The sterling presidency of Chief Justice Davide over the impeachment trial in the dying months of 2000 strengthened without doubt the court's authority in breaking the political deadlock of January.

Focus on collegial institution

But what is significant is that January 2001 shifted the focus from Davide to the court as a collegial institution, acting as the final arbiter of constitutional conflict in Philippine democracy.

It can be said that in a series of interventions and decisions flowing from Davide's decision to swear in Ms Macapagal to the presidency, the court was the institution that held together the frayed fabric of Philippine democracy coming apart from under tremendous stress from political conflict.

Its intervention saved the constitutional system from collapse, even if its decisions according legitimacy to the successor government were to be followed by waves of legal challenges from Estrada supporters.

Institutional majesty

The institutional majesty of the court was emphasized by the decision backing Davide's leadership in swearing in the Vice President. Twelve of 15 justices signed the resolution administering the oath. In their judicial gowns, the men and women of the Supreme Court jostled into the Edsa crowd to mount the stage at the Edsa Shrine where the Vice President took her oath as president—not as "acting" President—thereby initially bestowing legitimacy to the new government.

Legitimacy was the key to pulling the nation away from bloody strife, and if there was evidence that the court's intervention turned the tide, it was the tacit recognition of and acceptance by key political and social institutions of the court's legitimating decisions.

In the oathtaking at Edsa, leaders of the organs of state—Congress, the bureaucracy, the defecting members of the Estrada Cabinet, the leadership of the Armed Forces and the national police, the dean of the diplomatic corps, as well as leaders of the Catholic Church and civil society in revolt against the regime, closed ranks behind the court's intervention on behalf of a civil transition of power. Even the army bowed to the court's authority.

Constitutional challenges

To be sure, the court topped the polls of public approval for its actions in the impeachment trial; and, no doubt, this contributed immensely in restoring confidence in constitutional processes.

The refusal, however, of Estrada to sign a resignation letter gave rise to a series of constitutional challenges to Macapagal's legitimacy, since her accession in reality took an extra-constitutional route. In a series of landmark decisions, the court tackled head on the legal questions over legitimacy.

On March 2, 2001, in a rare display of unanimity, the court voted 13-0 (with Chief Justice Davide and Justice Artemio Panganiban inhibiting themselves) to uphold the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration. In dismissing the petition filed by Estrada challenging the constitutionality of the Macapagal accession, the court held that she was *de jure* President. It rejected Estrada's argument that he "only took a temporary leave of absence due to his inability to govern."

'Totality test'

The decision, penned by Justice Reynato Puno, was based on the "totality test" to conclude that Estrada had resigned even though he did not sign a letter of resignation. In judicial terms, the test means "the totality of prior, contemporaneous evidence bearing a material relevance on the issue."

The decision said that the diary of former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, published in the INQUIRER, was the "authoritative window on the state of mind" of Estrada.

In a precedent-setting ruling, the court relied heavily on a memoir of a political event to decide a ticklish constitutional issue.

"In sum, we hold that the resignation of the petitioner cannot be doubted," the decision said. "It was confirmed by his leaving Malacañang."

In the press release containing Estrada's final statement, the court pointed out that, "(1) he acknowledged the oath-taking of the respondent as president of the Republic albeit with reservation about its legality; (2) he emphasized he was leaving the Palace, the seat of the presidency, for the sake of peace and in order to begin the healing process of the nation. He did not say he was leaving the Palace due to any kind of inability and that he was going to reassume the presidency as soon as the disability disappears." The decision said that the press release was Estrada's "valedictory, his final act of farewell", emphasizing that "his presidency is now in the past tense."

The court held that Ms Macapagal was not merely the acting President, with Estrada as President-on-leave, because of the following reasons: she took her oath as president, not as acting president; the House of Representatives, in its resolutions of Jan. 24, 2001, supported her assumption into office . . . as president, and in a resolution of Feb. 7, 2001, "confirmed the nomination of Senator Teofisto Guingona as vice president; 12 members of the Senate signed a resolution supporting the new government, and confirmed the nomination of Guingona as vice president. It pointed out that both houses of Congress had started sending bills to be signed into law by the new president.

Concurring justices

Twelve other justices concurred—Justices Josue Bellosillo, Jose Melo, Jose Vitug, Santiago Kapunan, Vicente Mendoza, Leonardo Quisumbing, Bernardo Pardo, Arturo Buena, Conseulo Ynares-Santiago, Sabino de Leon, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, and Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes. Although they concurred in the result, Vitug, Mendoza, Ynares-Santiago, Kapunan, Pardo and Sandoval-Gutierrez wrote separate opinions, reflecting different perspectives.

To make the decision more emphatic, the court on March 2 voted 9-4 to throw out Estrada's petition seeking immunity from criminal suits. This decision opened the way for the trial of Estrada on charges of plunder and corruption in the Sandiganbayan.

On April 3, the court again unanimously voted 13-0 to dismiss Estrada's petition for reconsideration of the March 2 decision.

Turbulence

Despite these decisions, Estrada and his followers refused to accept them, and on May 1, their opposition took a violent form when opposition leaders allegedly recruited and incited the urban poor to storm Malacañang. This turbulent aftermath signified that institutional legitimation of the Macapagal regime foreshadowed stormy political weather.

On Nov. 19, while the Estrada trial was under way in the Sandiganbayan, the high court threw back another serious legal challenge by Estrada when it decided with a vote of 10-4, with one abstention, that the anti-plunder law was constitutional. The decision, penned by Justice Josue Belellosillo, demolished legal obstacles to his prosecution under the law and constituted a blow to Estrada's attempts to evade the criminal cases.

The ruling came in the midst of speculations that the court was evenly divided and that political leaders were concerned that the overturning of the law would spell the revival of new political turbulence that would destablize the Macapagal government.

In the past year, there have been other important decisions of the Davide court, like its decision of the prima facie public nature of the coconut levy funds. But the series of four decisions noted above highlights the orientation of the court.

'Judicial activism'

Former Sen. Jovito Salonga has commented that the legitimacy decisions point to a tendency toward the Supreme Court's "judicial activism and statesmanship". Salonga may be right, but the other dimension that the decisions reveal is that they highlight the concerns of the court to establish an environment of stability from which orderly governance can proceed.

The independence of the justices is not at all in issue. Seven were appointees of then President Fidel V. Ramos and five of President Estrada, and two of President Aquino. Justice Antonio Carpio is the only appointee of Macapagal. He was named to the court upon the retirement of Justice Minerva Gonzaga last September. Carpio came in on Oct.26, 2001 after the legitimacy decisions. In November, he abstained from taking part in the plunder law decision. *(This is why his photo does not appear with the full court on Page A1-ED.)*

Despite their diversity of opinions, it is remarkable that in the key issues the court produced overwhelming majorities upholding legitimacy within constitutional bounds.

In his foreword to Justice Panganiban's book, "A Centenary of Justice," Davide did acknowledge—albeit in an understated way—that members of the court were "thrust into center-stage at an extremely crucial point in the history of our Republic whose moorings teetered precariously into collapsing."

He described the unanimous decision on legitimacy as a "defining watershed event of truly momentous proportions that would be cast in concrete at the portals of constitutionalism".

In June, the court celebrated its centenary enjoying high public esteem and with programs of reform to facilitate the fair administration of justice. But the defining element of this court in 2001 is that it served as the anchor of the reestablishment of stability and respect for damaged institutions at a time when Philippine democracy was being rocked by populist upheavals.

And so, we might heed the wise counsel of Justice Vitug who wrote that "after two non-violent civilian uprising within just a short span of years between them, it might be said that popular mass action is fast becoming an institutionalized enterprise."

This warning is relevant in the face of the new clamor for another people power to dislodge a government enjoying legal legitimacy.

Hingis, Federer triumph

SYDNEY—Roger Federer and Martina Hingis scored a pair of straight sets victories on Saturday as Switzerland swept both singles titles at the Sydney International tennis tournament.

Federer was a young man in a tremendous hurry as he outplayed Argentine qualifier Juan Ignacio Chela 6-3, 6-3 to take the men's title, while Hingis downed Meghann Shaughnessy of the United States 6-2, 6-3 in the women's final.

It was the first time Swiss players had won at the same tournament — although Federer and Hingis combined to win the Hopman Cup teams title last year in Perth.

The joint triumph lifted both players' hopes of success at the Australian Open. The first Grand Slam tournament of the year begins in Melbourne on Monday.

Former world No.1 Hingis ended an 11-month title drought—the longest of her career—as she won the 39th title of her career. She took home the Sydney event for the third time—and the second year in succession.

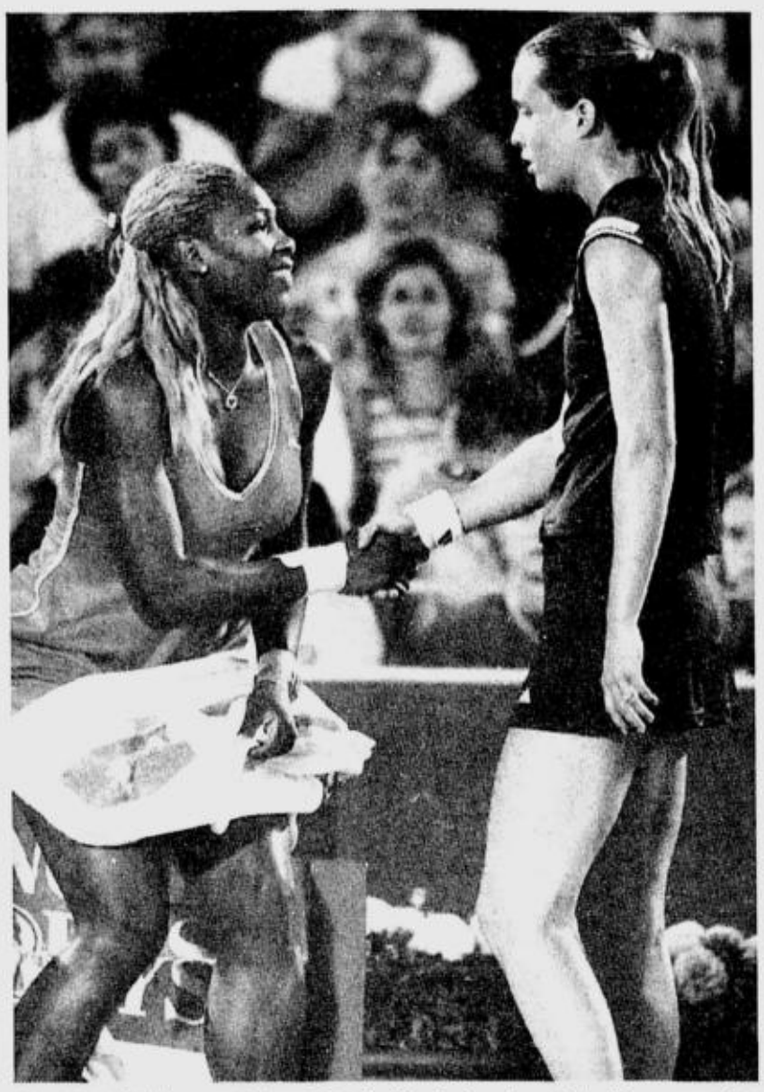
On the comeback trail after undergoing ankle surgery last October, she was near flawless on serve as she took the first set from eighth-seeded Shaughnessy with a pair of breaks, sealing the set with a superb volley at the net.

She earned 90,000 US dollars while Shaughnessy collected 48,500.

Sampras beats Agassi

MELBOURNE, Australia— Pete Sampras tuned up for next week's Australian Open with a three-set victory over old rival Andre Agassi in the final of the Kooyong International tennis exhibition tournament here Saturday. The 13-time grand slam winner defeated Agassi, 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 in 105 minutes. *AFP*

Kidapawan nat'l chessfest host



SERENA Williams of the USA (left) shakes hands with compatriot Meghann Shaughnessy after Williams retired from their semifinal duel on center court at the Sydney International, Jan. 11 due to an ankle injury. In the Australian Open beginning Monday, former women's No. 1 Hingis will have to beat second-ranked Venus Williams, the reigning Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion, her sister Serena and then top seed Jennifer Capriati, the defending champion, to clinch another Grand Slam title. REUTERS

THE NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) announced that the 2002 National Inter-Cities and Municipal Chess Team championship will be held in Kidapawan City, North Cotabato, on April 1 to 6.

In an organizational meeting held last Friday, Jan. 11, at the Music Room of Holiday Inn, North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol approved his province's hosting of the weeklong tournament organized by the NCFP.

"We have agreed to host this year's Inter-Cities and Municipalities chess tournament as our way of helping our aspiring chess players from all over the country. Of course, through this tournament, we would also like to showcase the tourism potential of our beloved province," said Piñol.

Also present during the organizational meeting were Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos D. Tuason, NCFP officials led by chair/president Mat Defensor, Secretary General Sammy Estimo, executive director Gene Poliarco, and Grandmasters Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio.

At stake in this tournament is a total cash pot of P526,000 with the champion team getting the lion's share of P200,000. The runner-up, third and fourth-placers will win P100,000, P75,000 and P50,000, respectively. The top three finishers will also win trophies and medals.

The fifth placer up to the 10th place finishers will likewise win cash prizes, while individual board topnotchers will also be awarded cash prizes and medals.

Expected to participate in this annual event are teams from different cities and municipalities nationwide, headed by last year's winner and defending champion Mandaluyong City anchored by Antonio.

"Definitely, this year's edition is going to be bigger and better. For that, we would like to thank Gov. Piñol for agreeing to host this prestigious event. With his help, I am very sure that this tournament would be a huge success," said Defensor.

The NCFP is also soliciting the assistance of the Department of Interior and Local Government headed by Secretary Joey Lina through a circular encouraging local government officials to send their respective chess teams to the annual event.

Caliraya bassfest Jan. 19

SOME 30 anglers are competing in the Philippine Game fishing Foundation (PGFF) AAD bassfishing tournament to kick off the 10-leg light and heavy tackle 2002 Angler of the Year (AOY) derby at Lagos del Sol, Lake Caliraya on Jan. 19-20.

It is to be followed Feb. 16-17 by the Subic Bay Yacht Club PGFF Interclub, which is open to invited fishing clubs entering a 4-angler, 2-buddy boat team.

Rey Buencamino, 2001 AOY and reelected PGFF president, said the bassfest is supported by PGFF vice president Amacio A. Dy. Buencamino also won free entry to the 2002 Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT) at Kona on Aug. 3-10, courtesy of Dy. Dy also agreed to sponsor the 2002 AOY's 2003 HIBT entry fee.

Other PGFF officers-elect and Board of Trustes members are Bobby Garcia, treasurer; Louie Abiva Jr., secretary; Vic-Vic Villavicencio, Judes Echauz, Rico Gueco, Mayenn Ordoveza, Jimmy Chiu, Alberto H. Lingayo Sr. and Efren Chua Yap.

Five heavy tackle fishing events are set: Feb. 16-17 at Subic; April 12-14, May 23-26, and June 13-15 all at San Vicente, Sta. Ana, Cagayan; July 12-14 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. For more light tackle events complete the 2002 AOY derby.

For details, contact Rose Aberin of PGFF: tels. 373-0743/373-0248; visit PGFF web site www.pgff.com.ph or Email: pgffrose@edsamail.com.ph.

Knicks vs Bucks

TWO of the NBA's premiere shooting guards square off today when Latrell Sprewell and the New York Knicks battle Ray Allen and the Milwaukee Bucks, 9 p.m. on NBN 4. The Knicks beat the Bucks, 85-71, last Dec. 7, when Sprewell, with 28 points, dominated Allen and held him to only 10 points on 4-of-20 shooting.

Tan Ho barges into net finals

SIXTH-SEEDED Joshua Tan Ho of Xavier School barged into the boys' 12-under finals following a 1-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1 upset win over fourth pick Patrick Ken Arevalo yesterday in the 13th Andrada Cup Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Tan Ho, who also beat Arevalo in the finals of the Penang International Juniors Championships in Malaysia last November, shoots for the title at 9 a.m. today against No. 5 Gerard Michael Ngo, who also scored a 6-2, 6-3 reversal over third seed Gerard Narvaez.

Top seed Mauric Lao of Aklan outclassed No. 5 Raymond Villarete of La Salle-Greenhills, 6-0, 6-1 and No. 2 Arithmetico Lim survived third seed Kyle Dandan of Colegio de San Agustin, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0 to forge a title showdown in the boys' 14-under category of this Group 2 event held in honor of Philta president Salvador Andrada.

In the girls division, second seed Bien Zoleta of Mary Hill College-Lucena outplayed No. 4 Katrina Pamintuan, 6-0, 6-4, to advance in the 16-under finals against fifth seed Alyssa Labay of Bacolod, a 6-0, 6-3 winner over No. 3 Ivy de Castro of Miriam.

Facing in the girls' 14-under finals were top seed Melissa Orteza of La Salle-Zobel, who defeated unranked Bambi Zoleta of Mary Hill College-Lucena, 7-5, 6-2, and Jessica Agra of Colegio de San Agustin, who beat second seed Julie Em Botor of Morning Dew Montessori-Cainta, 6-2, 7-5.

The top-ranked Bambi, however, won her semifinal match against fourth seed Sarah Jane Lim, 6-2, 6-0, to arrange a championship duel with the second-seeded Agra, who rallied past No. 3 Botor, 0-6, 6-4, 6-2, in the 12-under class.

San Vicente High booters prevail

SAN Vicente National High School whipped Vinzons Pilot High, 6-0, recently to rule the Camarines Norte Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football eliminations.

The champ earned the right to challenge Quezon champion Southern Luzon Polytechnic College Laboratory High for the last berth in the Luzon finals. San Vicente knocked out Alawihaw High, 4-1, in its first match.

Alawihaw finished third by beating Vinzons High School (Annex), 2-1.

Vinzons Pilot High made it to the finals by blanking Vinzons High (Annex), 2-0, in the semifinals.

It was the first time Camarines Norte participated in the nationwide Coke Go-for-Goal tournament organized by Coca-Cola.

Horse racing posts record P6-B sales

LOCAL horse racing marked another banner year in 2001 with total sales from horse race betting operation reaching a record of more than P5.9-billion.

Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI), operators of the Santa Ana Park, accounted for a hefty share of P3,080,532,828 from the total industry sales, while Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI), which manages the San Lazaro Hippodrome, registered annual sales of P2,839,038,723 from its operation last year.

The record annual betting turnover was a marked 29.03 percent increase compared to last year's (2000) sales of P4.58-billion or an actual increment of more than P1.33-billion.

"We are certainly delighted that the local horse racing industry continued its phenomenal growth in 2001 and remain confident that we could sustain such a strong performance this year given the collective support of the various sectors of the industry," noted Philracom chief Andrew A. Sanchez.

The dramatic improvement in industry sales could be attributed in large part to the increase in the number of racing days from 210 in 2000 to 254 last year. The 44 additional racing is actually an offshoot of the Philracom's decision to allow the two race clubs to hold 5-day race cards from Wednesday through Sunday starting March last year.

The biggest beneficiary of local horse racing's record sales performance last year was the national government, which is estimated to realize a revenue collection in direct taxes alone of more than P880 million.

In recognition of the industry's record-setting growth in 2001, the Philracom spearheaded the staging of a two-week Philracom New Year's Racing Festival between the MJCI and the PRCI with hefty guaranteed prizes to the winners of special featured races, ushering in the 2002 racing season.

The Philracom likewise unveiled an ambitious stakes program for the 2002 racing season which is set to commence next Sunday with the running of the inaugural "Sun God Stakes Race" at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Among the protagonists in the featured 1,500-meter stakes race are Art of Race, Bakasan, Bidang Bida, Conquer D'Sun, Men of Honor, Perfect Storm, Security Risk and Spinning Bullet.

January 16

THERE won't be any major race at San Lazaro this coming Wednesday, Jan. 16.

But every *karerista* is already looking forward to be there or at least be a part of that racing day because of the Manila Jockey Club's "triple treat."

The main attractions come in the form of three hefty carryovers in the Winner-Take-All, Pick-6 and Triple Trifecta events.

Karеristas literally took a beating during the Jan. 6 meeting because longshots dominated much of the newly introduced class division races.

Expected to reach record-breaking sales on Wednesday is the WTA because of the hefty carryover of P4,945,328.19. By rough estimate, total gross sales in this event are predicted to soar between P10 and 15 million.

The last time we chatted with MJC manager Rudy Prado, he said that the club would only concentrate on the WTA betting on Wednesday and schedule the Pick-6 and Triple Trifecta the following day. But an MJC statement said all three would be included in the Jan. 16 program.

At any rate, the Pick-6 carryover is P479,250.58 and the Triple Trifecta has an additionalP627,523.04.

To give *karеristas* ample time to place their bets, all MJC off-track betting sites will open starting at 3 p.m.

My *Silip* Boy said he'll just bet the "*hinay hinay*" way today in anticipation of Wednesday's races.

May you all win on Jan. 16!

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Golden Brook 2. Yes Sir 3. Double Header
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Race 3—1. Front Page 2. Party Princess 3. Above All 4. Ocean Menary 5. Mighty Dragon
Race 4—1. Gypsy Soul 2. Aim for Gold 3. Crown of Justice 4. Zaragoza Real
Race 5—1. Impeachment 2. Real Charm 3. Mahdi's Gold 4. Gentleman's Copy 5. Miguel's Pet
Race 6—1. Sweep Away 2. Labuyo 3. House Conquest 4. Sweet Topic 5. Native Talent
Race 7—1. Asalto 2. Michael's Way 3. Lucky El 4. Something Silver
Race 8—1. Golden Eagle 2. Charlemagne 3. Lyonnais 4. Hazmoore 5. Bound to Be 6. Power Pack
Race 9—1. Dream Play 2. Confidential 3. Astuce 4. Jade Louise
Race 10—1. Wings of Gold 2. Happy Return 3. Madam Aida 4. Ready Aim Fire
Race 11—1. Shower of Stars 2. Conquer D Sun 3. James Joy 4. Tumatagінting 5. Field Master
Race 12—1. American Beauty 2. Nagilisang Ikaw 3. Grand Dragon 4. May's Magic 5. Majestic Ruler
Race 13—1. Real Dancer 2. Ilocos Queen 3. High and Mighty 4. Freshman 5. Golden Quest
Race 14—1. Cool Under Fire 2. Golden Prince 3. Demolition Jack 4. Grace and Fortune 5. Samahan 6. Cobra Door

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY In 1990, Frankie Miñoza shot a two-under-par 70 to score a one-stroke victory over Eddie Bagtas in the 2nd Pilipinas Nissan golf classic at the Alabang Golf and Country Club. Also today in 1992, Robert Pactolerin and Richard Sinfuego combined for a one-under-par 71 to post a six-stroke victory over George Olaybar and June Sarmiento at the 34th Fort Bonifacio Pro-Am in Makati.

Cage elims postponed

THE OPENING of the National Capital Regional National Students Basketball Championships elimination round was moved from Jan. 14 to 24.

Organizers arrived at the decision to give more time for the participating school teams to complete the eligibility requirement of their players, particularly the National Statistics Office birth certificate and school records.

Rolando Tumapat, chair of the technical and eligibility commission of the organizing Basketball Association of the Philippines, said the new deadline for submission of entries of the tournament is on Jan. 19.

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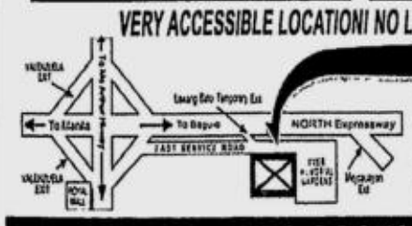

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SundaySPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Alabang cagefest

YOUNG basketball aspirants have only until today to join the Milo Best Sunday—only clinics at St. Benedict College in Alabang Hills. Levels 1 and 2 classes are slated from 1 to 4 p.m. Interested parties may also contact The Best Center at 34 Scout Lozano, Barangay Laging Handa, Q.C. (tel. nos. 6260 and 372-3065/66).

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 6 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA -- New York Knicks vs Milwaukee Bucks at 9:10 p.m. on NBN 4

This Week in the NBA tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on CNN

The Basketball Show at 2 p.m. on RPN 9

New coach to be named tomorrow

BY JUNE NAVARRO

WHILE the entire PBA coaching fraternity frowns on taking over the helm of the country's preparation for this year's Asian Games, the league requested team officials to submit a short list of possible replacements for Ron Jacobs.

PBA executive assistant Ricky Santos yesterday said Commissioner Jun Bernardino personally asked the league's Board of Governors to name anyone in their respective teams whom they feel could fill in the shoes left by the bedridden 59-year-old coach.

Bernardino gave the board until today to furnish him a list of choices willing to either continue the programs laid out by Jacobs or map out another plan that would induce the best results in the Asiad slated late September, Santos added.

Bernardino is expected to announce Jacob's replacement tomorrow.

But Santos cautioned that Bernardino is not just counting on the list submitted by the teams alone.

He said the possibility of designating a replacement outside of the roster remains a logical alternative as Bernardino is keeping his options open.

As this developed, the nine coaches in the league expressed some apprehension and had mixed reactions on taking over the responsibility accidentally left behind by Jacobs.

PBA press corps coach of the year Yeng Guiao of Red Bull said he would think about it if the league asks him to.

"But as of now I don't want to even think about it," he added.

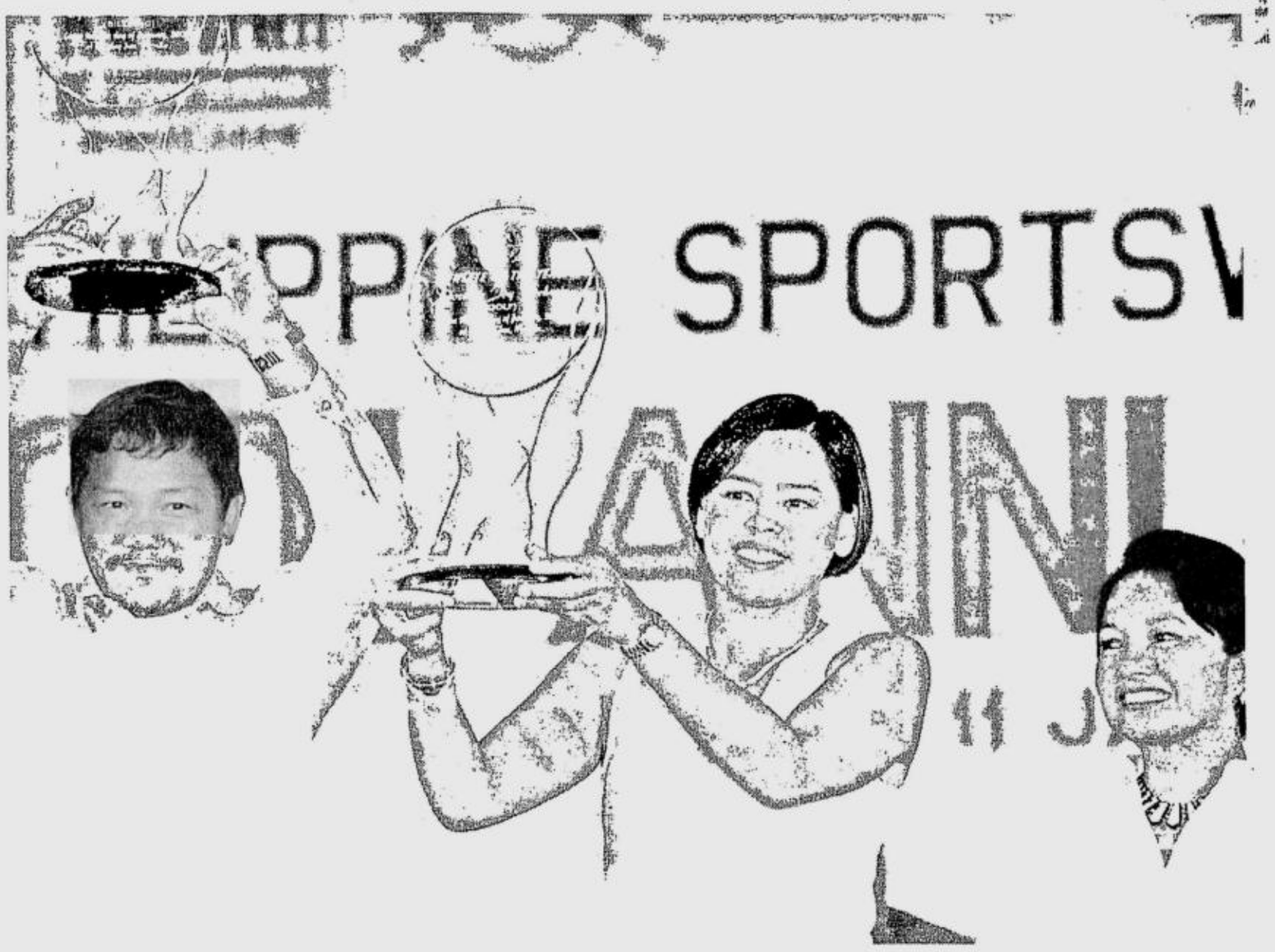
Shell's Perry Ronquillo openly declined to take on the job and chorused with Coke's Chot Reyes that San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico is the best bet at this point.

Tim Cone of Alaska opted not to comment about it while Ginebra's Allan Caidic and Eric Altamirano of Purefoods were reportedly not interested on calling the shots for the national team.

Sta. Lucia's Norman Black is willing to help but said the job should go to a Filipino coach while Derick Pumaren of Federal Express said: "No thanks. I've been away from international competitions for a very long time."

Uichico, the man officially tapped by Jacobs as one of his deputies, knows his capacity and realistically exclaimed that he's not fit for the job.

Should the PBA run out of takers, sources said Uichico would be ready to take on the challenge.



WITH YEAR'S BEST: President Macapagal-Arroyo (right) applauds as Reyes (extreme left) and Delasin hoist their trophies symbolic of their being named Co-Athletes of the Year by the Philippine Sportswriters Association Friday at the Manila Pavilion. ROMY HOMILLADA

Draft on; Shell eyes De Ocampo

BY JUNE NAVARRO

FEDERAL Express has Yancy De Ocampo as its hands-down choice but anything could still happen in the PBA Annual Draft today at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Shell is courting the newest team on the block to give up its top pick and barter for the Turbo Chargers' fourth and eighth choices in today's proceedings.

FedEx president Lito Alvarez said the offer was juicy as the team needed fresh faces and fast legs on its maiden voyage in the PBA.

Late last night, Alvarez and FedEx coach Derick Pumaren were discussing the possibility of the deal because at Nos. 4 and 7 they will have greater chances of beefing up the team with a new breed of talents.

FedEx also owns the eighth pick overall by virtue of a trade that sent Jeffrey Cariaso and Freddie Abuda to Coke in exchange for the Tigers' No. 8 choice.

If FedEx takes a bite on Shell's gambit, then the 6-foot-9 De Ocampo will join the Turbo Chargers at the start of the 2002 PBA season.

The exercise will start at 3 p.m. with 48 aspirants hoping to land in a team in dire need of their services.

Viva telecast

VIVA Vintage Sports will telecast the 2002 PBA Draft in full starting at 6:30 p.m. today (Sunday, Jan. 13) on IBC-13.

This year's batch of hopefuls comprises the largest-ever PBA Draft class in the pro league's 28-year history. It features high-profile players like Renren Ritualo, Yancy de Ocampo, Raffy Reavis, Chris Calaguio, Omanzie Rodriguez and Chito Victolero.

Before the PBA Draft telecast, Viva Vintage will air highlights of the classic 1996 PBA Governors' Cup Finals between grandslam-seeking Alaska Milk and the Robert Jaworski-led Ginebra San Miguel on the PBA's Greatest Games show at 4:30 p.m.

NO SPEECH, PLEASE

GMA surprises all, attends Awards

THE PHILIPPINE Sportswriters Association's Awards Night for outstanding athletes of 2001 took a happy twist Friday night when President Macapagal-Arroyo surfaced at the Manila Pavilion.

Arroyo's arrival took the scribes by surprise—even as the President broke tradition by not delivering a speech reserved for the night's guest of honor in the event's 54th edition.

Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao aborted reading the speech after a bomb-sniffing canine made his way to the carpeted ballroom together with the presidential security guards to signal the president's arrival.

PSC commissioner Cynthia Carrion reportedly convinced the President to drop by after they had attended a dinner.

But the President didn't stay long enough to see the other side of billiards magician Efren "Bata" Reyes—do some comedy with his patented broken "Carabao English" that brought the house down.

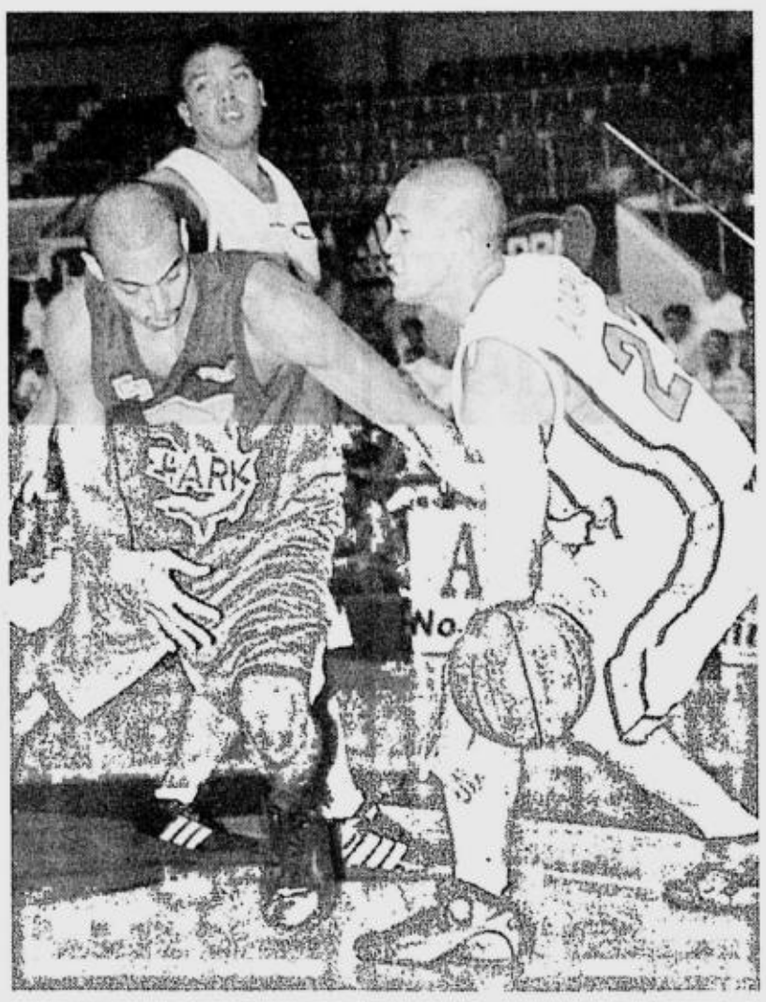
Reyes was adjudged Co-Athlete of the Year with golfer Dorothy Joy Delasin.

Delasin came with her new agent Mark Freeland and caddy Clint Begay, rumored to be her boyfriend. Begay, younger brother of PGA Tour standout Notah, however said "it is a professional player-caddie relationship, nothing more."

Delasin, who was provided with a free business class ticket by Philippine Airlines, is set to play with the President at Wack Wack today.

Andy del Rosario was on hand to receive a special award for outstanding achievement in other fields of interest. He's now ambassador to Hungary.

Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, a former boxing columnist and an occasional broadcaster who is credited with Mindanao's renaissance in boxing through the Lerio brothers, was also given the same award. ***With a report from Jong Arcano***



SHARK'S Clarence Cole (right) disputes ball possession with Ariel Capus of Ana Freezer while Roland Pascual looks on in this PBL Challenge Cup action recently at the Makati Coliseum. Shark won, 84-67. BETOY JOHNSON

76ers win; Wizards fall

PHILADELPHIA —Allen Iverson scored 37 points and the Philadelphia 76ers used a strong defensive effort to beat the San Antonio Spurs, 101-84, Friday night.

In Philadelphia's first game since Iverson criticized coach Larry Brown, the defending Eastern Conference champions played one of their best games of the year against the NBA's second-best team.

The Sixers, just 16-20 this season, forced the Spurs into a season-high 20 turnovers and held San Antonio to 29-of-75 (39 percent) shooting.

Iverson was 14-of-31 from the field and 9-of-10 from the foul line. Derrick Coleman had 17 points and Dikembe Mutombo grabbed 12 rebounds for the Sixers, who have won two of their last three.

Pacers 97, Bulls 90

In Indianapolis, Jalen Rose rediscovered his shooting touch, scoring 38 points as Indiana kept Chicago winless on the road this season.

Rose matched his total production for the last four games, hitting 13 of 21 shots from the field and all nine of his free throws.

Rose had scored only 18 points in his last three games, shooting 8-of-32 from the field. He hit six of seven in the first half and never cooled off as the Bulls dropped their 18th consecutive road game and their sixth straight overall. *AP*

Mango Tee slated Feb. 7-10

MORE than P2 million worth of prizes are up for grabs in the 18th edition of the Mango Tee, the member-guest tournament of the exclusive Alabang Country Club backed chiefly by Smart Communications, slated Feb. 7-10.

A brand-new Adventure and Lancer from Mitsubishi Motors will be at stake as hole-in-one prizes and another P700,000-worth of tournament and raffle items will complete the awesome prize package for the popular invitational.

An overflow of sponsorships has ensured another rousing success for the Mango Tee. The sponsors are FedEx, Malayan Insurance, Bangko Sentral, GG&A, Green Cross, Cocolife/Direct Link, Jomon Carpet, Citra Tollways, Friends of Mango Tee, Supreme Construction, Nestle, The Turf Co., Golforce, Joseph Rice Mill, Directories Phils., YKK Zipper Phils., Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance, Sharexchange Brokers, Hadji Andi Tabusalla, Acro Industrial, Security Bank, Standard Chartered, Golfers Clubshares, T&C Construction, Maisog Eng'g and Mori-Mori Restaurant.

Woods 4 behind

PARAPARAUMU BEACH, New Zealand—Tiger Woods splashed his way into contention in the New Zealand Open on Saturday, shooting a 4-under-par to close within four strokes of the lead.

Woods had a 3-under 210 total, while Australia's Stephen Leaney topped the leaderboard at 7 under after just five holes in the round delayed by rain and flooding for 3 hours, 15 minutes. *AP*

Praise

Al S. Mendoza

HERE'S a glass to President Macapagal-Arroyo. Had she not graced the PSA Awards Night Friday, she'd be pilloried till kingdom come. Indeed, this is a time to show unity with the sports republic.

Thank God, she did.

I would have criticized her myself had she not come. I was ready with a column on that. But I held my punches.

Thank God, I did.

There was a lesson to learn there: It's not over till it's over.

If it's true it was Commissioner Carrion who prevailed upon GMA not to snub the affair, here's to her, too. Carrion's doggedness was proof of her genuine care for sports. ■

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino deserves our praise, too. Late is never late. With his decision to replace Ron Jacobs as coach of the Asiad-bound Philippine quintet, the wheels of preparation can start rolling again.

I know it pained him to do that. But after the good commissioner had gotten the final lowdown on Jacobs' condition from the coach's doctors themselves, he had no recourse but to drop the American.

The stroke that felled Jacobs last Dec. 23 was a sad day for Philippine sports in general and for Philippine basketball in particular. Jacobs would have been what the doctor had prescribed to end our hunt for the Asiad basketball gold.

I was told Jacobs would soon be removed from the ICU (intensive care unit) of St. Luke's. Let's pray he fully recovers soon.

Jacobs' replacement has a gargantuan task ahead of him. But once he gets the right mix of players from the talent-laden pool—what with towering Fil-Ams in it—it will be easy from there.

It was totally different in 1998, when the likes of Harp, Pennissi, Taulava, Menk, Danny Seigle and Hatfield—to name only a few—were not yet around.

This time, our team for the Busan Games will be too powerful as to really contend for the gold, which the country last won in 1962. ■

Best wishes to Jong Sison Ortega, the jolly son of Prosecutor Manny and Lily. Jong tied the knot yesterday with Milet (Torrejos) in Alabang.

Shark, ICTSI remain PBL leaders

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	9	4
ICTSI	9	4
Welcoat	8	5
Blu	7	6
Kutitap	7	6
Ana	4	9
Ateneo	4	9
Montaña	4	9

GAMES TUESDAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
3:30 p.m.—Blu Detergent vs Kutitap
5:30 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Welcoat

BY DENNIS U. EROA

TITLEHOLDER Shark Energy Drink and surprise package ICTSI- La Salle bested their respective rivals, assuring themselves of playoffs for automatic semifinal berths in the PBL Challenge Cup last night at the Makati Coliseum.

Veteran Jing Rodriguez and foxy Michael Robinson shone as Shark tripped Ateneo-Pioneer, 84-76, while ICTSI-La Salle outgunned Ana Freezers, 100-86, to remain the leaders with identical 9-4 cards.

With two days left before the end of the double round-robin eliminations, no team is assured yet of making the semifinals outright. To avoid complications, ICTSI must beat Welcoat (8-5) on Tuesday, while Shark needs to do the same over Montaña Jewels (4-9) on Jan. 17.

Due to the balanced competition, even the two squads which will take an early vacation are still to be decided. Tailenders Montaña, Ana Freezers and Ateneo-Pioneer can still make it to the quarterfinals.

The 5-foot-8 Robinson handcuffed 6-foot-3 Leo Avenido in the fourth quarter. Avenido finished with 23 points, but scored just two in the crucial fourth, as Robinson tirelessly chased him.

Rodriguez, the most senior team member, exploded with 19 points, including six in the final three minutes of play. Magnum Membrere's jumper gave Ateneo-Pioneer a 71-70 lead, but Chester Tolomia responded with a triple, setting up Shark's mighty finish.

"Defense did it," said Shark coach Leo Austria.

Forward James Yap topscored for the Archers with 22 points, while Mike Cortez had 10 of ICTSI's 28 assists which broke Ana's back. ICTSI also dominated the boards, 40-19, but committed 28 turnovers.

With Rommel Daep firing 10 points, the Archers surged to a commanding 20-point bubble, 74-54, at the end of the third quarter. They simply exchanged baskets with the Freezer Kings till the final buzzer.

The scores:

SHARK 84—Rodriguez 18, Tolomia 16, Ybañez 10, Sotto 10, Junio 10, Castro 6, Ortega 5, Basilides 5, Cole 2, Robinson 2, Caceres 0.

ATENEO-PIONEER 76—Avenido 23, Mamaril 15, Alvarez 9, Fonacier 8, B. Sison 8, Bugia 5, Membrere 4, De la Rosa 3, Ferrer 1, Villanueva 0, Noble 0.

Quarters: 19-19, 46-37, 59-65, 84-76

ICTSI-La Salle 100—Yap 22, Daep 18, Cortez 15, Franco 14, Castro 7, Sta. Maria 6, Omolon 6, Wilson 4, Cuan 3, Vainio 2, Ramos 2, Uy 1, Manalo 0.

ANA 86—Pascual 24, D. Mendoza 16, Mendoza 11, Tubid 10, Capus 9, Vilar 8, Artadi 7, Oreta 1, Flores 0.

Quarters: 21-19, 47-39, 74-54, 100-86.

Gloria to decide SEAG host, says Monico

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

BACOLOD Rep. Monico Puentevella, main proponent of Bacolod-Iloilo's bid to host the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, yesterday said it is President Macapagal-Arroyo who'll make the decision which city or province will host the biennial event and not the Philippine Olympic Committee.

The former sports commissioner, who is also the chair of the House Committee on Youth and Sports, likewise asked the POC to stop promoting Manila as SEA Games host because it is unfair to other bidders.

"With all due respect, let us give the President the free hand to choose the host city or province," Puentevella said. "After all, it is she who has the right to give go-signal to any construction or renovation that is going to take place."

'Widest participation'

He was reacting to the statement given by POC president Celso Dayrit, who declared that there is a POC guideline making Manila the center of activities for the Games which the city hosted in 1981 and 1991.

Pampanga provincial board member and Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao said they are gunning for the "biggest or widest participation possible" although he doesn't have any problem with the POC's guideline.

"We have abundant land and good location," said Guiao. "That's what we can offer best. But ours is not an all or nothing offer. We can always work on a compromise."

But Puentevella was not as compromising, stressing that the government need not spend on renovating Manila's Rizal Memorial Sports Complex because it is not anymore a conducive venue being at the center of a crowded Manila district.

'Pales in comparison'

"Manila has hosted many international events," said Puentevella. "Let us give chance to the province like what they did to Chiang Mai (Thailand), Penang and Johore Bahru (Malaysia).

"Tourism-wise, Manila is not the Philippines, the provinces deserve the opportunities given to Manila."

He also argued the condition of the RMSC, which Puentevella claims, pales in comparison with Bacolod City's Panaad Sports Complex, built three years ago in the heart of a eucalyptus forest in the outskirts of the city.

"Coming from somebody who has given them enough respect," said Puentevella said. "They (POC) can recommend anybody but Manila because we don't know if Rizal Memorial (Sports Complex) will still remain the national sports complex by that time."

Buhain new Ncrasa head

FORMER Southeast Asian Games record holder Eric R. Buhain was recently appointed officer in charge of the National Capital Region Amateur Swimming Association.

His appointment came through a letter addressed to him last Dec. 21 by Ral A. Rosario, secretary general of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association.

Rosario said the Pasa Executive Committee Members unanimously decided to appoint Buhain during a meeting in Bacolod last Dec. 4.

Rosario also said Dennis A. Cordero was replaced by Martin Cesario Palacios as national assistant coach effective Jan. 7.

Polo season on

THE MANILA Polo Club will open the 2002 polo season with the staging of the Past Presidents' Cup today with competitions and activities scheduled for the whole afternoon.

After the opening ceremony, the 2 p.m. low goal match starts with Jose Constantino, Jimboy Dulay, Ace Suzuki, Freddie Borromeo, Jun Juban, Vince Bitong, Sonny Borromeo and Rosanna Yulo seeing action.

An equestrian display will follow before the day's main event, the high goal match to be participated in by Bobby Aguirre, Iñigo Zobel, Ricky Yabut, Nacho Gonzales, Anthony Filamor and Santi Elizalde.

The annual Presidents' Cup event is being held in honor of the club's past presidents. The season is being sponsored by Volvo, American Eye Center, Coca Cola Bottlers Phils. and Philippine Wine Merchants.

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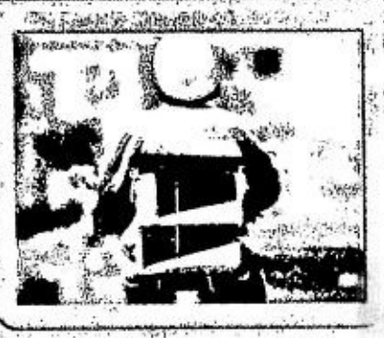

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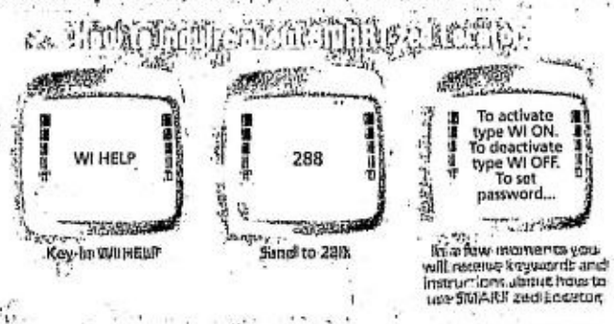

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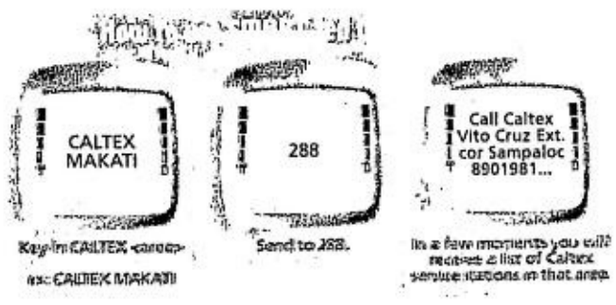

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

LOPEZ YOUTH SLAIN IN '99

Family thirsting for justice

BY JEROME ANING

EDWIN Joseph Lopez was shot dead when he put up a fight against a group of teenagers who allegedly stole his Hyundai Starex van in Malate, Manila on Aug. 17, 1999.

On Thursday, the slain man's mother, Priscilla Lopez, will find out if their family will get the justice they have been hoping for. On that day, Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 38 Judge Priscilla Baltazar will render her decision on the case of car theft with homicide filed against eight suspects, who were aged 16 to 19 when the killing happened.

"No day ever passed without me thinking of my son and that heinous event that took him away from us," Priscilla said. "These tears are not enough to wash away the longing and our thirst for justice for the death of Edwin Joseph."

She also said, "I love my son very much. I could allow only God to take him away from me, not them, not anybody."

A press statement from Priscilla cited earlier reports of a cover-up and that the suspects could elude justice since they have connections to influential figures in the Manila City government.

One of the suspects is a son of a high-ranking City Hall official.

The city official quit after he was accused of obstruction of justice. But he was recently appointed to another position.

The members of the Lopez family said they believe justice is on their side and those responsible for the killing of Edwin Joseph would soon be put behind bars.

Amid alleged threats of reprisal from the families of the suspects, the members of the Lopez family expressed their "strong resolve" to see the end of the long legal battle and said they hope to win "truth and justice on our side."

"We will not rest until we see the strong arm of the law catching up with them and punishing them for taking away my beloved son," Priscilla said.

His son left behind his wife Sheila and their son Carlos Miguel, now 4 years old.

Even if they would be found guilty, the suspects would not be given the death penalty since they were minors at the time the crime was committed.

"I wish I could pass on to them this great pain so they will realize the heinous crime they committed against my son," Priscilla said.

Police later found out that the Hyundai Starex that Lopez died for was allegedly used in the abduction

FAMILY THIRSTING/ A22

Jail visitors go to jail

HERMINIO Ramos, 62, and Beatriz Aguinaldo, 75, came to visit relatives detained at the Manila City Jail but were themselves detained after police caught them carrying shabu.

JO1 Eva Marie Tenedora said Ramos was going to visit his son Antonio Ramos and son-in-law Conrado Villanueva, who are in jail on drug charges.

Tenedora said the movements of Ramos, half of whose body is paralyzed, aroused the suspicion of jail officers who decided to search him Thursday morning. They said they found a plastic sachet of shabu worth P3,000.

The officers said Ramos meant to give the shabu to his son and son-in-law who would sell it to other inmates.

At 1:15 p.m., Aguinaldo was

JAIL VISITORS/ A22

KAYE FLIES BACK TO U.S.

Kaye Torres waits at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport departure lounge before flying back to the United States Friday night. The daughter of slain actress Nida Blanca said she would be back after two weeks.

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No credible witness in Nida case–NBI

BY JEROME ANING

WYCOCO

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has yet to find a credible witness in the killing of veteran actress Nida Blanca.

In an interview late last week, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco told reporters that investigators have yet to "reach that stage" when they could publicly name and arrest the suspects, even as his men are exhausting all means to find witnesses.

Wycoco said their potential witnesses include Blanca's close friends from show business and immediate family members. But so far, the bureau has gathered only additional circumstantial pieces of evidence against some people whom they consider as the most possible suspects in the case, Wycoco said.

He admitted that what they have gathered is not enough to file charges. But he refused to say what information he was referring to.

He said the NBI has fielded nine teams to "look into new developments," which could help investigators determine where the murder weapon came from.

"When we took over the investigation (from the police), we found more evidence which, I would say, is material to our probe," Wycoco said. "(But) we won't disclose the evidence we have, so those who must talk should talk now.

"The important thing is to gather enough evidence against them," he added. "We have the circumstantial evidence. What we need is corroborating evidence."

A few days after Blanca was found dead last Nov. 7, Philip Medel came forward to confess that he had been hired to kill the actress. He said Blanca's husband Rod Lauren Strunk had ordered and paid for the killing.

But Medel later retracted his confession.

Last week, the NBI interrogated a taxi driver who, according to security guards at White Plains in Quezon City, had brought to Blanca's house on Nathan Street three women early in the morning of the day the actress was found dead. But the investigators debunked his statement.

Blanca was found dead from several stab wounds inside her Nissan car, which was parked on the 6th floor parking space of Atlanta Building in Greenhills, San Juan. She was 65.

'Lakad' kicks off National Cancer Consciousness Week

THE DEPARTMENT of Health and the Philippine Cancer Society have again issued a call for people to join the annual "Lakad Laban sa Kanser." The fun walk, now on its sixth year, formally opens National Cancer Consciousness Week today starting at 6 a.m.

National Cancer Consciousness Week (NCCW) is the opening event in the year-round National Cancer Consciousness Campaign.

According to Health Assistant Secretary Rolando Enrique Domingo, chair of the NCCW organizing committee, Proclamation 1348 set National Cancer Consciousness Week, with the DOH and the PCS leading the efforts to raise the awareness of the general public about cancer.

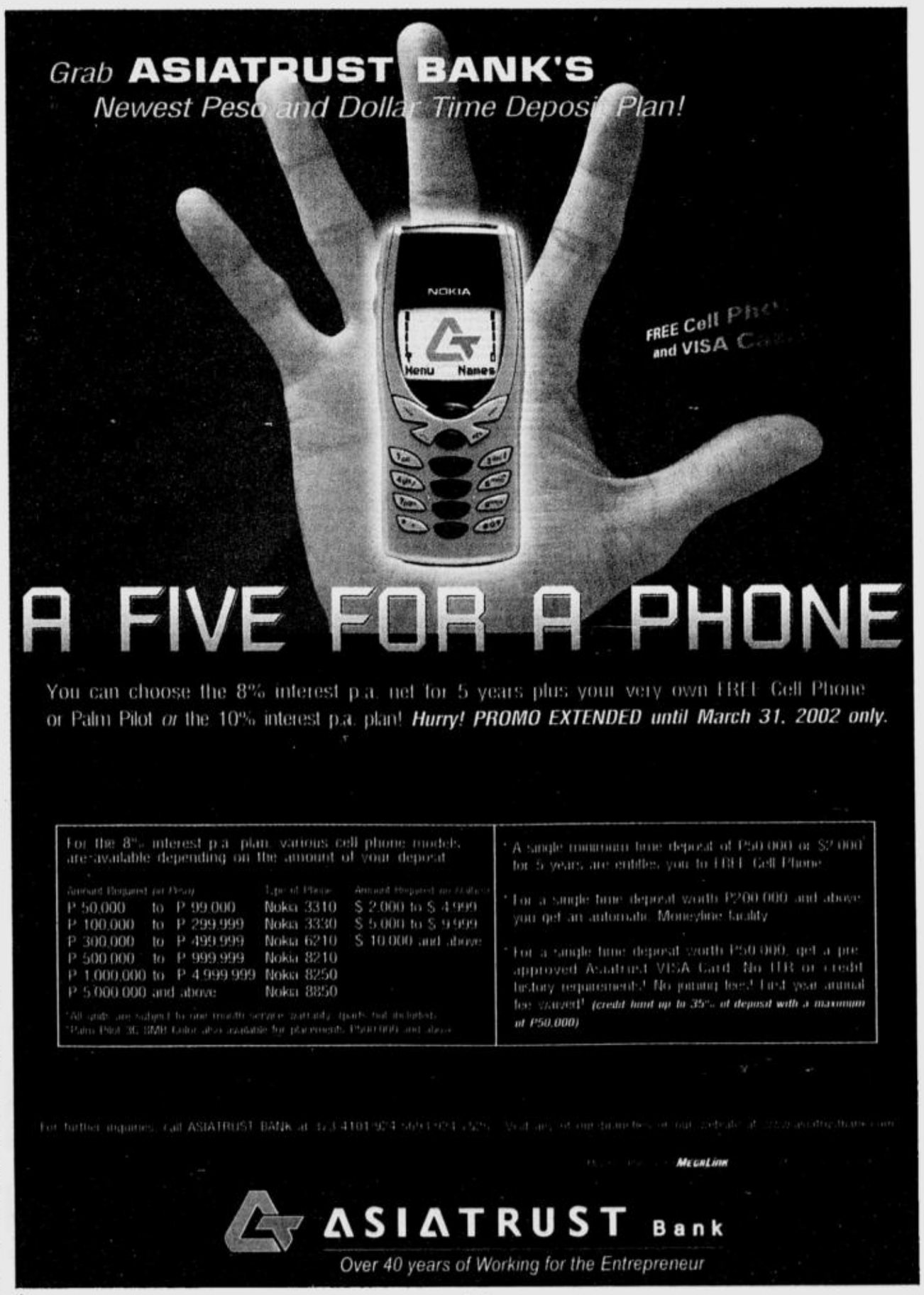
The Lakad participants come from all sectors of the community. The walk aims to promote messages about correct eating habits, proper behavior and health practices, risk factors, preventive action and early detection of cancer.

Dr. Valorie Fullon-Chan, Lakad committee chair, said a major component of the Lakad is the message "Stop Smoking! Stop Tobacco Use!"

Lakad participants will seek to enlist the support of policy makers and enforcers for a stronger campaign against smoking, a leading cause of cancer.

All Lakad participants will gather at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and V. Sotto Street beside the Cultural Center of the Philippines. From there, they will walk up to Padre Faura and then back to the CCP area. The 3.5-kilometer walk will be followed by a short program.

For more information, call 734-2126 or 734-2131.



RESIDENTS APPEAL TO FILINVEST

'Please stop the demolition'

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ
Contributor

RESIDENTS of Alabang, Muntinlupa led by their parish priest on Friday appealed to authorities and to Filinvest Development Corp. to prevent the demolition of the houses of more than 200 families on a government-owned property leased by the private developer.

"We appeal to Filinvest and to authorities not to push through with the demolition unless the residents are given relocation," Fr. Grato Germanetto, parish priest of St. Jerome-Sta. Susana, said in an interview with the **Inquirer**.

The property, located right across the Ayala Town Center in Alabang, is part of the approximately 244 hectares being developed by Filinvest into a "modern mixed-use urban center."

The lot in question is said to be valued at P3.6 billion.

The government, represented by the Public Estates Authority, entered into a joint venture with the private developer during the administration of President Ramos as part of the government's effort to utilize all government-owned properties.

Under the joint venture agreement signed by government and Filinvest representatives on April 14, 1993, the government agreed to allow Filinvest to use the property.

Filinvest agreed to provide the working capital.

It also agreed to shoulder all expenses in relocating the squatters and other residents living on the property and to provide a maximum of 2,000 low-cost housing units at the site.

Since construction started in 1995, majority of the families had already transferred to the on-site relocation.

But Fr. Grato said Filinvest refused to relocate more than 200 families even when they are legitimate residents of the area.

Former Muntinlupa Vice Mayor Vic Chua also questioned Filinvest's refusal to spend for the relocation of the remaining families. He said the PEA-Filinvest agreement clearly stipulated that the developer would shoulder on-site relocation of identified legitimate residents.

"It is very clear in the agreement," Chua said. "We are just fighting for principles here." Chua, together with Fr. Grato, has been helping the affected residents.

Chua said PEA and Filinvest had insisted that of the remaining families, only 30 were qualified for on-site relocation.

But Chua said the question on the legitimacy of the remaining resident-claimants could be easily resolved through public documents like birth certificates, marriage certificates or billing statements.

"If they want to ascertain the legitimacy of these people, they can ask for public documents to support the residents' claim," he said. "But we wonder why they are not doing this."

Some residents, however, said Filinvest refused to pay for their relocation because it would mean additional cost and lesser profits to the developer.

Binay threatens to go to court to fight Comelec fund call

BY ALCUIN PAPA

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay said he would oppose the call of the Commission on Elections for local governments to provide funds for the coming barangay and SK elections from 10 percent of their internal revenue allocation (IRA).

Binay on Friday told reporters he would go to court if necessary.

"We will go to court over this," he said. "This move has no legal basis. At the very least, we have to give our consent to the move."

Binay said he would consult other Metro Manila mayors on the matter. He said it would be better if the mayor would appoint the barangay captains, councilors and other barangay officials instead of holding elections. This could save the government money, he added.

"I believe it would be better if the barangay officials and the kagawads would be appointed," he said.

But he clarified that if barangay officials were to be appointed by the mayor, their performance should be subject to periodical review.

He said barangay officials have the "mistaken belief that they are secure in their positions. They just sit back and let the mayor do all the work."

Last November, Comelec Executive Secretary Mamasapunod Aguam said local governments should fork out the funds for the election of barangay officials and the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK).

He also asked the Department of Budget and Management to automatically deduct 10 percent from the internal revenue allocation of local government units to fund the barangay elections.

Bulacan trio kills 3

SAN ILDEFONSO, Bulacan—Members of the barangay tanod (village watchmen) killed three men and injured a 6-month-old boy in Barangay Akle here on Friday.

Police identified the dead as carpenter Danilo Valmocina, 47; Ernesto Capinlac, 47; and Alex Geronimo, 35.

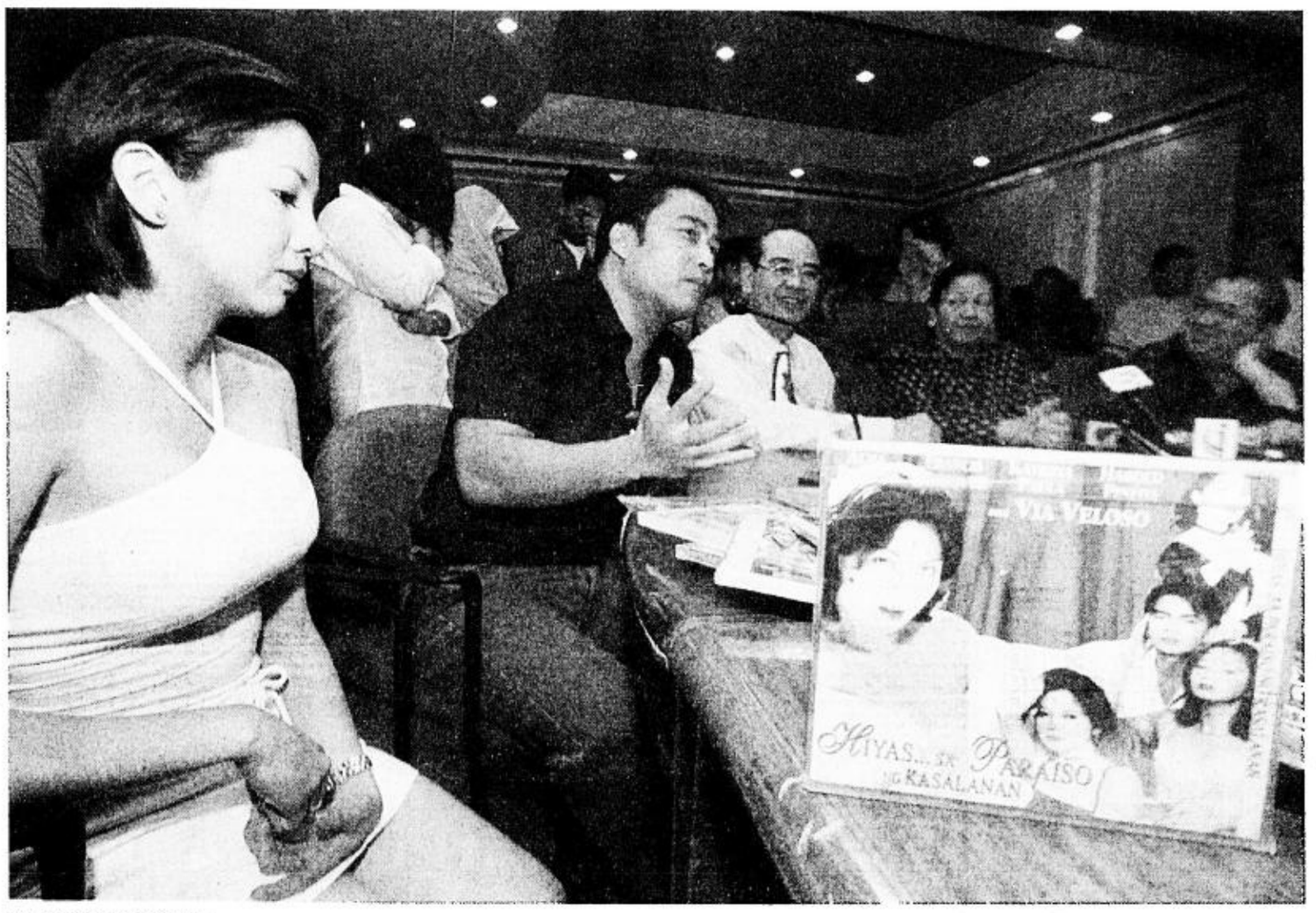
Valmocina, whom police identified as the live-in partner of the estranged wife of suspect Gaudencio Manalili, died immediately. Capinlac and Geronimo died while undergoing treatment at the Bulacan Provincial Hospital in Malolos.

Reports said Geronimo's 6-month-old son Christian suffered a bullet wound in the right arm.

Police said Manalili, a barangay tanod in Sapang Bulak in Doña Remedios Trinidad town, and two companions went to Geronimo's house and suddenly fired at the three men who were preparing food for a drinking party.

Police said Manalili was after Valmocina. Geronimo, Capinlac and the baby were hit by accident, police added.

Edgardo Piadozo, the driver of the jeepney that Manalili's group used, surrendered to police on Saturday. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***



PIRATE BOOTY

JOAN BONDOC

Movie action star Bong Revilla, accompanied by starlet Maui Taylor, present to police officers and officials of the Video Regulatory Board a number of VCDs of pirated local movies seized in stalls at the Virra Mall in Greenhills, San Juan. The illegal VCDs continue to sell despite the movie industry's campaign against piracy.

Tax cuts for parking lot owners

THE MANILA City council has approved an ordinance granting up to 100 percent tax discounts to owners of commercial and residential lands in the city who convert their lot into parks or parking areas.

The councilors unanimously approved the measure.

Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing, one of the measure's sponsors, said the ordinance would help decongest streets and solve the city's perennial traffic problem. The parks would serve as the city's "lungs" and alleviate air pollution.

The measure will be in effect for five years and will cover all lands classified by the Local Government Code as idle, or lands other than agricultural which are more than 1,000 square meters in area and one-half of which remain unutilized or unimproved by the owner.

Owners of commercial lands converted to parking areas will be granted a 100-percent discount on ad valorem and land improvement taxes for three years. For the fourth and fifth years, 50-percent discounts will be given.

No ad valorem tax will be imposed on owners of residential areas that will be converted to parks. The park design, however, must be approved by the Parks and Recreating Bureau and should conform to the city's "Buhayin and Maynila" development program.

All real property owners who want to avail themselves of the tax incentives must register with the Traffic and Parking Bureau (PRB) and the City Treasurer's Office. ***Jerome Aning***

Gov wants Cavite school official ousted

GOV. Ayong S. Maliksi yesterday said the Cavite schools division superintendent "once attempted to bribe" his provincial administrator and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) should dismiss her for this.

The schools division superintendent, Dr. Leonora B. Ignacio, "had privately approached lawyer Romy Pulido, the Cavite administrator, sometime in July last year and offered him half of a 30 percent discount on the purchase of lesson plans," Maliksi said in a statement issued by his office in Trece Martirez City.

"Mr. Pulido, who represents me whenever I cannot attend a meeting of the local school board which I chair, turned down the offer," Maliksi said. "Later, Dr. Ignacio returned to the provincial treasurer P72,000 in cash, supposedly the discount on the bulk purchase of lesson plans.

The treasurer, Luming Landas, issued the supplier, Ermo & Cen, a receipt for the money.

"Even our treasurer was baffled by the money returned to her by Dr. Ignacio," said Maliksi. "I gathered that it was the first time Dr. Ignacio had ever turned over to our treasury a discount or commission or rebate from the purchase of supplies by our school board in her over five years of service as schools superintendent of Cavite."

He said that as a result of Ignacio's action, the governor now automatically deducts a 30 percent or 20 percent discount on any purchase order made by the local school board. "And the suppliers agree to the deduction," he said. "We now have a lot of savings."

He said some suppliers once told him they were instructed "by whoever to tell me to keep the discount personally or to deposit it in my favorite charities lest the COA (Commission on Audit) detect differences between past and present purchases by the school board."

Ignacio claimed she announced the discount in question during a meeting of the local school board. "The book supplier was so happy for receiving an unexpected prompt payment that he gave us a discount," she said.

Bu Maliksi said Pulido insisted that Ignacio approached him privately about the discount, and not during a meeting of the school board.

Maliksi said Cavite teachers had been complaining to him about Ignacio even when he was still congressman of the second district of the province.

"The complaints against Dr. Ignacio are many and very serious," he said. "She should have been dismissed a long time ago by our education officials, but she has remarkable staying power." He said he would request Education Secretary Raul Roco to investigate Ignacio.

Maliksi said that until December many of the complainants against Ignacio did not want to be identified for fear of losing their jobs. Since then, at least seven teachers have gone public with their charges against Ignacio, he said.

Sonia Taduran, former head teacher of Bagbag National High School in Rosario, Cavite, accused Ignacio of abuse of authority, inaction on her complaint of sexual harassment by Ignacio's driver, "participation in the dealership of supplies through dummies," and asking for a "50 percent cut from suppliers."

Gloria Jaymalin, who now teaches at Salawag Elementary School in Dasmariñas, told in over 175 pages of documents her complaints against Ignacio.

Five teachers of the Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo High School in Imus separately wrote Roco and Maliksi complaining of Ignacio's attempt to whitewash a case involving teacher Lucinda Villa, whom they eventually sued for grave threats.

Ex-editor needs blood

FORMER entertainment editor Mario Garcia needs Type A blood, or any other blood type, for transfusion. Garcia is in critical condition after being diagnosed with cirrhosis, a progressive disease of the liver.

He is confined in Room 703 of the Manila Doctor's Hospital on United Nations Avenue in Manila.

Garcia, who was editor of the Bongga show business tabloid that used to be published by the Chronicle, also needs prayers and financial help. Please text or call 0918-3237841.

2 arrested for 2 slays in December

POLICE on Friday announced the arrest of two men suspected in the kidnapping and killing of a businessman and a dentist last December.

Elmer Villacorte, 27, and Orlando Garcia, 32, both of Bocaue, Bulacan, were arrested by Bulacan police under Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuna on Jan. 9 and 10.

A third suspect, who was not identified, remains at large.

Police said Villacorte's group abducted businessman Roy San Pedro, 31, and dentist Elmer Avenida, 28, in Quezon City on the night of Dec. 15.

San Pedro and Avenida, both residents of Sta. Maria, Bulacan, were found dead hours later in Barangay Malibong Matanda in Pandi, Bulacan. They had been stabbed.

An anti-crime advocate, who asked not to be identified, said the abductors killed the two men when their families could not meet the ransom demand.

The advocate could not say how much ransom money the abductors demanded.

A taxi driver, who had brought the suspects and the victims from Quezon City to Bulacan on the night of Dec. 15, surfaced and identified the abductors. ***TJ Burgonio***

JAMBOREE CHAMPIONS

Twenty-two scouts from Chiang Kai Shek College in Manila led by scoutmaster Judelio Yap emerged champions in the rafting competition during the Dec. 23-26, 2001 scouting jamboree in Hong Kong. Ten countries joined the event which was held in the New Territories.

Family thirsting . . .

(From page A21)

of three young women in Pasay City. The women were raped in Cavite.

The same group tagged in Lopez's death was said to be behind the abduction and rape of the women.

Lopez's death sparked a debate among government officials, the Church, human rights groups and anti-crime organizations on whether the minimum age of death convicts should be lowered from 18 to 16.

Priscilla called her son's killers heartless.

"My son was a very good person," she said. "He doesn't deserve to die that way and not in the hands of thrill-seeking gangsters.

"All I have now is the memory of my son-all the colorful years we have shared together. But the pain of his death knocks me down, and I am really trying hard to cope and accept that fact."

Jail . . .

(From page A21)

searched and also yielded a sachet of shabu worth P500 as she came to visit her son Antonio, who is charged with rape.

"She told us it was medicine," Tenedora said. "I told her we would have it checked in a lab."

Aguinaldo and Ramos would be charged with violation of Republic Act No. 6425 for possession of illegal drugs, police said. ***Alcuin Papa***

Lapses, distortions ruin an otherwise good story

BY GUTIERREZ M. MANGANSAKAN II
Contributor

REVIEW

DARK sometimes get in the way of a perfect view of the moon.

This is the case with Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Bagong Buwan." It can be argued that the film's primary intention is to tell a story about the sufferings of a people long neglected and exiled in the periphery of the national imagination. For the Moros, however, it is not enough that their stories are told. It is more important that the political, cultural and historical roots of their problem be addressed in relation to the realization of a lasting peace in their homeland.

It cannot be denied that cinema, as a very powerful medium, plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion about the political destiny of the Moros as a people, in dispelling inherent prejudices against them, and in understanding how peace can finally be achieved.

Ms Diaz-Abaya's film arrives at a very crucial juncture in history when talking peace between Moro nationalists and the Philippine government has become an imperative. The film's power to mold public opinion may spell the difference between a peaceful resolution to the conflict or an even greater rift among the people.

Characters

"Bagong Buwan" is the story of Ahmad, an idealistic Moro doctor in a Manila hospital who is forced to return home to Mindanao after his son is killed in an indiscriminate raid by paramilitary vigilantes. Disheartened by the conflict, he persuades his family to join him in Manila where he envisions a promising future for them.

He is rebuked by his brother Musa, an MILF mujahideen, for being ungrateful to his parents and for being apathetic to the sufferings of his people.

Their mother chastises them but assures them of her love despite their philosophical differences.

The film progresses when they are forced to evacuate their town. For Ahmad, this exodus becomes a shocking revelation as he sees many lives lost and many other people starve and fall sick. He wavers between his hippocratic oath to save lives and his religious obligation to defend his people's honor.

Other characters in the exodus have their own stories to tell. Their journey takes them to the realm of a local *datu* who, like his ancestors, vows to defend their pride as a people.

A young lieutenant encounters them as he searches for Moro rebels among the evacuees. A pregnant Christian girl, disowned by her family for marrying a Moro, faces an uncertain future. Jason, a fervent Catholic aid volunteer, finds himself moving along with the refugees to a safe haven.

Rashid, a young Moro rebel, after escaping a bombing incident, chances upon the group, together with a Christian brat who slowly un-learns his anti-Moro views during the flight.

Lapses

Ms Diaz-Abaya and her team should be admired for undertaking a considerable effort to ensure the film's approximation of reality. Many viewers may find the film disturbing for shattering social, moral, political, and cultural platitudes they have long believed and maybe cherished.

However, the film suffers from cultural and historical lapses that ruin an otherwise good story. The failure to recognize the division of the Moros into various ethnic groupings with their distinct set of social, aesthetic and cultural practices is the first problem of the production. As a result, the film is a hodgepodge of cliché representations, which contradict the attempt to offer a different perception of Moros and to erase deep-seated misconceptions and prejudices.

There is no clear milieu; it changes from scene to scene. In one scene, Rashid uses the word "bagay" (a Tausug term for a friend) and in the next scene we see a Maranao "torogan" (house). But then we sense that it is Maguindanaon when we hear the language spoken in the background. These details can easily be missed by the unfamiliar ear and eye.

The idiosyncracies are more evident in the production design. I get the impression that the film relied so much on coffeetable books rather than on the careful inspection of the background it tries to portray. The lieutenant, upon entering the datu's overly embellished house, notices *"pusaka"* (heirloom) on the wall. He tries to touch them but he is chided by the *datu* to respect his ancestors' memory. This is quite odd because a *pusaka* is customarily kept from the public eye.

In a surprising twist, the *datu* engages the enemy in "juramentado" fashion, a practice that is outdated and is usually associated with the people of Sulu.

It is also claimed that Sultan Kudarat was the first Moro ruler to rise against foreign domination. A veritable "tarsila" will tell that his ancestors had earlier resisted any outside rule.

Distortions

The film succeeds in making people sympathize with the suffering Moro people. But while it clearly advocates peace, it succumbs to a simplistic analysis of the origins of the Moro problem and fails to genuinely tackle them. In some cases, it conjures up a new interpretation. It concentrates on the disparity between Christians and Muslims as the intrinsic problem instead of looking at the government's systematic policy of political exclusion and refusal to grant the Moros the right to determine their own political destiny.

It distorts the concept of the Moro revolution. The revolution is guided by well-founded rationality and logical principles, not the blind fury and rashness demonstrated by the character of Musa and by the adventurist nature of the bombing scene.

The revolution, by policy, does not methodically aim to harm innocent people, whether Muslims or Christians.

The epilogue unnecessarily mentions the Sep. 11 bombings in the US, which links the Moro people's legitimate revolution to an appalling act of terrorism.

"Bagong Buwan" rides on a very controversial issue. It cannot contend that it merely tells a story. It becomes a political move by the way it posits its argument and how people perceive its point.

This is just the beginning of a long argument.

(The author is a Moro writer and filmmaker from Maguindanao. His piece was submitted by the Concerned Artists of the Philippines.)

THE MUSLIM doctor and the Christian brat. Best actor winner Cesar Montano and child performer Jiro Manio in "Bagong Buwan."

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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POWER PLANT
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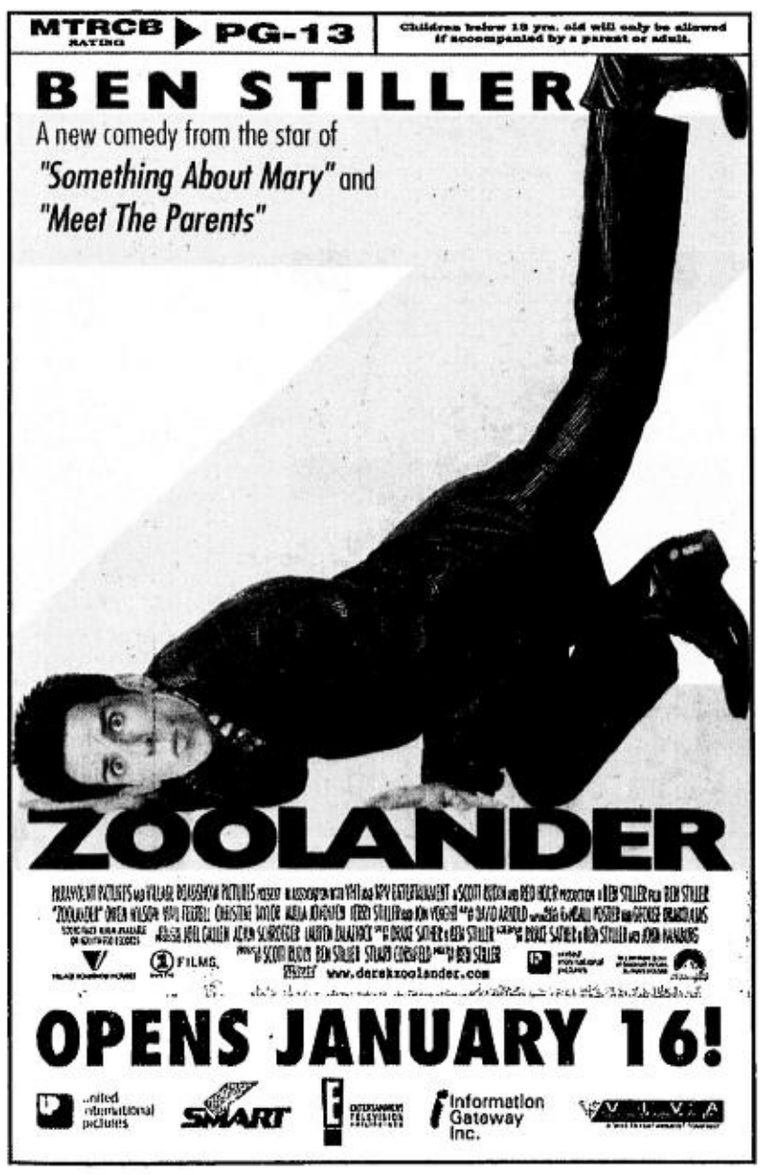
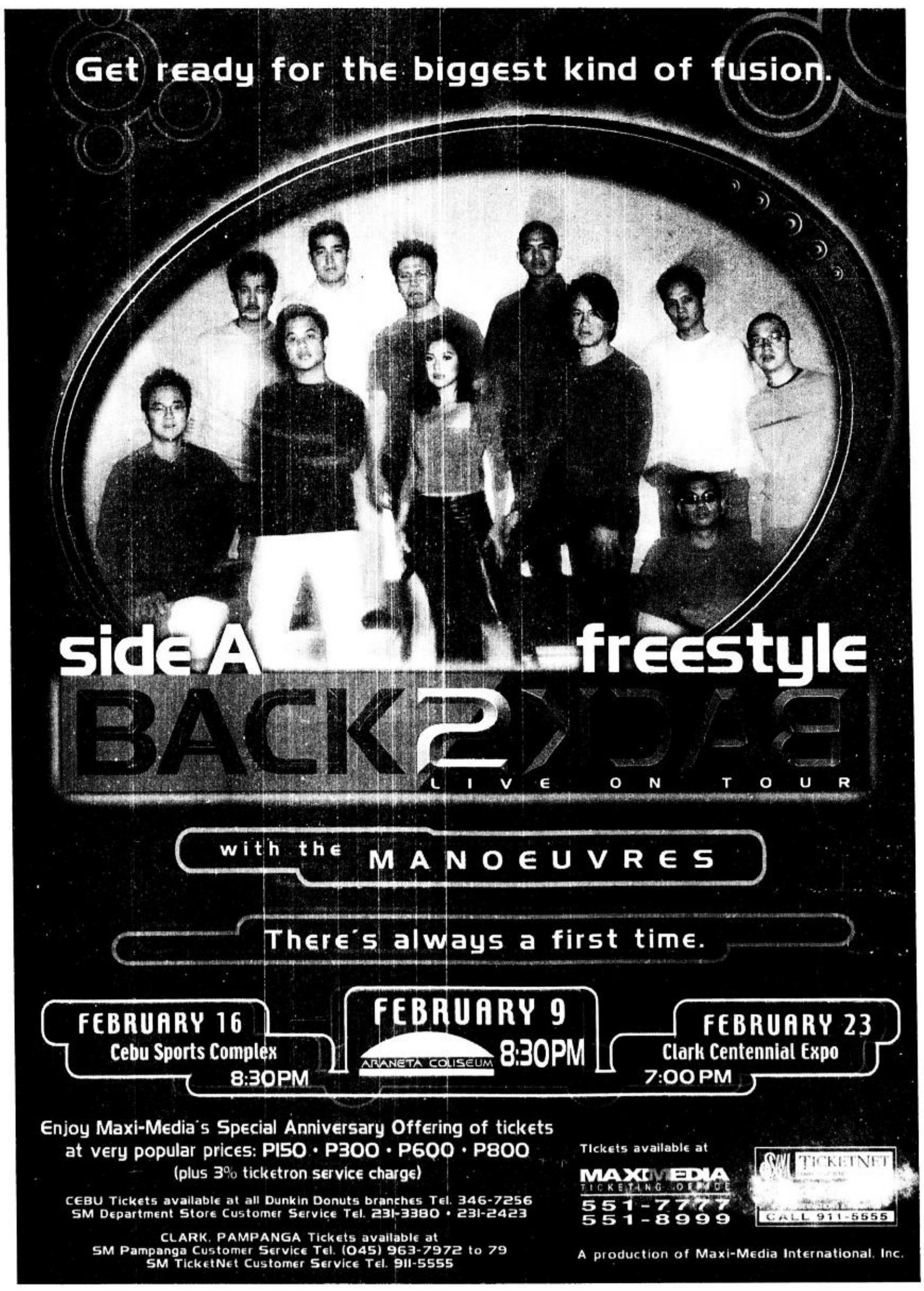
LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 10:20, 1:50, 5:20, 8:50	SPY GAME - P 13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.





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Check out the list of categories and nominees on the opposite page.

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Jolina not yet ready to take on adult roles

NO baring on the big screen for Jolina Magdangal.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD **Assunta de Rossi** won the best actress award in the recent Metro Manila Film Festival for her bold role in "Hubog." **Rica Peralejo** didn't have qualms of baring her body in such films as "Tatarin" and "Sa Huling Paghihintay." **Joyce Jimenez** continues to do sizzling roles.

But **Jolina Magdangal** swears she is not ready to do even just sexy roles, much less bare, on the big screen.

Jolina, 23, has maintained her wholesome image in youth-oriented and romantic-comedy flicks. Surprisingly, she also hits it off well with any leading man and remains bankable.

While others often get stuck with a particular screen partner or can't seem to find a perfect partner, Jolina manages to click with her every leading man, which is fine for the movies she makes.

In her latest movie, "Kung Ikaw ay Isang Panaginip," Jolina for the first time stars with **Leandro Muñoz** and **Rafael Roselle III**. Their fine onscreen chemistry is unmistakable.

"Before I work with anyone, I make it a point to get to know them well first," Jolina allows. "I make an effort to chat with them so we will be comfortable during the take."

Jolina knows she has to eventually graduate to adult roles. But she is not in a hurry.

"I don't want to just jump into adult roles," she says. "I have to do it gradually. I want the viewers and my fans to be ready when that time comes."

"Kung Ikaw ay Isang Panaginip" is directed by **Wenn Deramas** from a screenplay by **Ricky Lee** and **Mel del Rosario**.

Jolina plays Roselle, a hardworking Edsa hawker who fantasizes and daydreams when she sees the huge billboard with the photo of Rafael. Leandro is an MRT operator who falls for her.

Despite the fame and fortune, Jolina remains modest and simple. "What you see on TV is the same person behind the cameras," she says. "I guess I'm really very lucky because there are people who trust my talent."

Twin baptism

AGA Muhlach considers "8" as his lucky number. After his May 28 wedding, he announced that his wife **Charlene Gonzales** would have twins. The twins were baptized Jan. 8 at St. James the Great Church in Ayala Alabang Village, where the couple also resides.

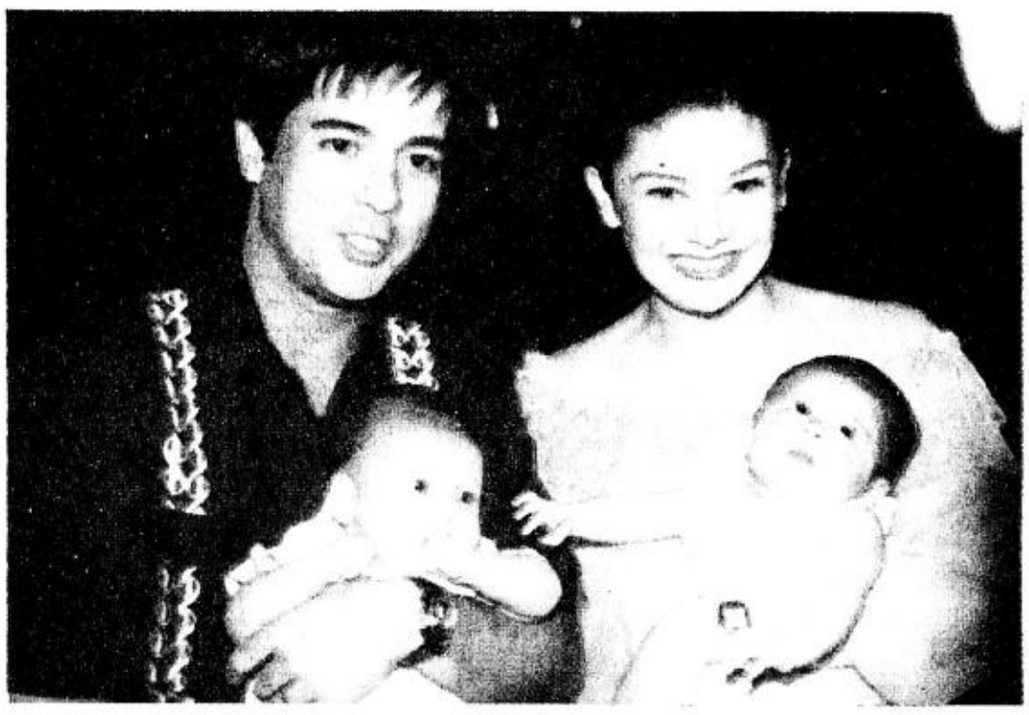
The twins—**Atasha Aaron** and **Antonio Andres**—wore pink and blue *jusi* gowns created by **Joe Salazar**, who also did Charlene's wedding gown.

Quite noticeably, there was hardly any show biz figure among the godparents. The only ones from show biz were **Luis Philippe Manzano** (son of **Edu Manzano** and Lipa mayor and actress **Vilma Santos**), film director **Joyce Bernal**, "Keep on Dancing" choreographer **Maribeth Bichara** and **Alyanna Carmela Martinez** (eldest daughter of **Albert** and **Liezl Martinez**).

The other godparents were **Victor Tan** of Bobson Garments, **Alberto Reyes, Arcel Arce, Angelica Marie Ampil, Bong Lopez, Samantha Sadhwani, Vince Lauron, Berna Romulo-Puyat**, Dr. **Abraham Pascual** of Pascual Laboratories (manufacturer of Poten-Cee Vitamin which Aga endorses), **Jerevi Hermogino Hughes, Anthony Manlongat** and **Cheryl Dionisio**.

Officiating priests were Rev. **Crisostomo Yalung** and Rev. **Armand Tangi**.

The reception was held at the Alabang Country Club.



TWIN baptism for Atasha Aaron and Antonio Andres, the celebrity babies of Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales.

Hilda tries comedy

HILDA Koronel was supposed to bid goodbye to show biz and settle in the United States. But then M-Zet Productions offered her a part in a TV comedy.

Thus viewers are in for a surprise when Hilda makes her sitcom debut in "Daddy Di Do Du," which stars **Vic Sotto**. The show is now on a new time slot, Sundays at 8 p.m. on GMA 7.

Hilda is best known for her dramatic prowess in such **Lino Brocka** classic films as "Insiang," "Maynila sa Kuko ng Liwanang," "Hayop sa Hayop," "PX" and "Anghela Markado" and **Mike de Leon**'s "Kung Mangarap Ka't Magising." Making people laugh is a first in her illustrious acting career.

In "Daddy Di Do Du," she plays doting aunt to **Danica Sotto, Maxene Magalona** and **Isabella de Leon**. She, too, has magical powers.

An M-Zet Productions insider says Hilda enjoys the role very much and doesn't mind wearing outrageous costumes and hairdos.

Hilda's role, however, should not be mistaken as a replacement for that of **Nida Blanca**, who was in "Daddy Di Do Du" when she was killed last November.

Our source said Hilda's role is very different and much more flamboyant than the character Nida played.

The sitcom is directed by **Bert de Leon**.

Prayers needed

WE ARE requesting readers to please pray for writer **Mario Garcia**, who is now confined at Manila Doctor's Hospital.

Mario's text message to another writer, **Mell Navarro**, was forwarded to us: "My liver is already malfunctioning. According to the doctor, I may go anytime."

You can text your prayers to Mario at 0918-3237841.

KORONEL. Making people laugh is a first in her career.

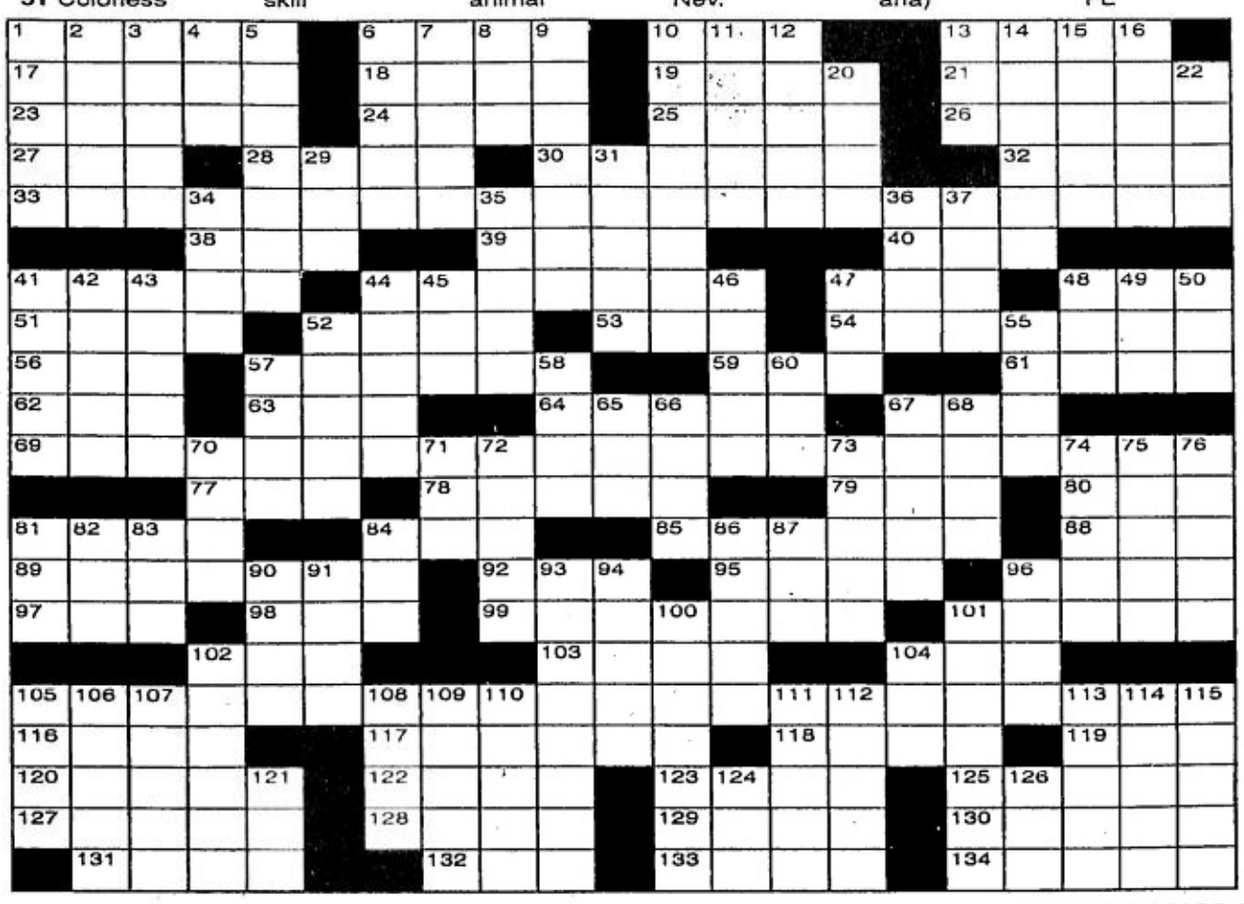
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

FILM CLIP

ACROSS
1 Songwriters' org.
6 Old Glory feature
10 — -jongg
13 Ali —
17 Playground fixture
18 Ripped
19 Inland sea
21 It multiplies by dividing
23 Islamic text
24 Columnist Bombeck
25 Mrs. Zeus
26 Astronomer Carl
27 Catchall abbr.
28 Party pots
30 Bandleader Hampton
32 Gusto
33 Start of a remark by George Leonard
38 Cry of discovery
39 Pound of poetry
40 Forster's "Howards —"
41 Film division
44 Swerves dangerously
47 — -de-lance
48 Spear-headed
51 Colorless
52 Ship's slammer
53 Salon supply
54 Part 2 of remark
56 — du Diable
57 Lost one's tail?
59 It can be wicked
61 Writer O'Brien
62 — Tin Tin
63 Over-dramatic thespian
64 Nichols' "— Irish Rose"
67 Mont-gomery's st.
69 Part 3 of remark
77 Humorist George
78 Pine product
79 Affliction
80 Palindromic Parseghian
81 Old tub
84 Rock's Fleet-wood —
85 Part of a diet
88 Ferris-wheel unit
89 Part 4 of remark
92 Time Warner partner
95 Sharpen a skill
96 Location
97 Even so
98 Shack
99 Occur earlier
101 Croc's kin
102 Droop
103 Director Mira
104 Tin —
105 End of remark
116 Chianti, e.g.
117 Keen insight
118 Graceland name
119 — roll
120 Above it all
122 Mr. Ed's mother
123 "Clinton's Ditch"
125 Buffalo Bill, for one
127 Tenor Mario
128 North Carolina campus
129 Baseball's Sammy
130 Disburse
131 Nourish
132 Humorist Buchwald
133 Manuscript imperative
134 Bolger/ Lahr co-star

DOWN
1 Crooked
2 Arboreal animal
3 She brought out the beast in men
4 Periodon-tists' org.
5 Kind of fudge
6 Shorthand, shortly
7 Museum piece
8 It's up your sleeve
9 Get it
10 '75 Diana Ross film
11 Stadium
12 Seraglio
13 Coll. degrees
14 Bowled over
15 Sire
16 Disconcert
20 Composer Schifrin
22 Up-front money
29 Plutarch character
31 "The Woman —" ('84 film)
34 Nary a soul
35 It suits many
36 41 Down, for one
37 Calvary inscription
41 Mr. Agnew
42 Neighbor of Nev.
43 Skater Berezhnaya
44 Brioche bit
45 Pitch in
46 Put in stitches
47 Crafty critter
48 Top
49 Tons of time
50 Heredity letters
52 Responsi-bility
55 Shipshape
57 Israel's Barak
58 Place to pontificate
60 "Just — thought!"
65 Bach's "Bist du — mir"
66 Travelers' stops
67 Dwelling
68 Tun throw-aways
70 Time to crow?
71 Monk's title
72 Sum up
73 Swill con-noisseur
74 Implied
75 Urania's sister
76 Not as common
81 Farm feature
82 "— gelida manina" (Puccini aria)
83 — bran
84 Encountered
86 Actress Maureen
87 Fate
90 Bangkok resident
91 "Les Miserables" author
93 Frill
94 Rent
96 Amritsar attire
100 Gloom
101 Parsley, perhaps
102 Nap
104 Word form for "environ-ment"
105 Ellipse
106 Mideastern melange
107 — fell swoop
108 June, but not July
109 Florida city
110 Colossal commotion
111 Elevate
112 Actor Williams
113 It gets wet as it dries
114 Absurd
115 Sweet treat
121 In thing
124 Disintegrate
126 — -Locka, FL



ANSWER ON PAGE A23

Dina gets better and better

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SOME people thought that, after **Dina Bonnevie** lost her daytime TV show, she would vanish from the performing scene. Not so. Quite the contrary, Dina has been starring in one movie after another, not to mention the many guest appearances she's been making on TV these days.

In the recently concluded Metro filmfest, Dina came on strong as the repressed and unhappy wife in "Tatarin." And this month, in "American Adobo," she's playing a very different character, a sexually-liberated Fil-Am New Yorker who has an unfaithful American boyfriend.

Both roles require Dina to run through a veritable gamut of emotions, and the contrast between the characters she plays in these two major production further underscores her versatility.

Dina's remarkable visibility on the big screen is noteworthy because she's no longer in her 20s. In this country, the minute a female star hits her 30s, she has a hard time sustaining viewers' interest.

The Filipino audience is so youth-oriented that producers keep trotting out callow little drama ingenues or hot-to-trot sexy starlets in their early on mid-teens for viewers' temporary delectation.

After a couple of films, however, these hot, new discoveries seem to cool off and grow old before our very eyes, because many of them have precious little talent to back them up.

That has never been Dina's problem, thank goodness, so she's still here. In fact she's one of the few lead actresses we have in their 30s and 40s who are still getting the best roles in town. Most of their contemporaries have already settled for supporting, mother or *kontrabida* roles, or have left the performing scene completely.

We hope that Dina follows up on her performances in "Tatarin" and "American Adobo" with other significant film portrayals this year, to prove to viewers that a female star doesn't have to lose her luster when she gets into her 30s and 40s. In fact, she can even get better—and better!

BONNEVIE

Feedback

FROM **Boy Blue P. Filomeno** of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan: "I would like to appeal to the MTRCB to tighten its grip on noontime shows. Children are now heavily bombarded with lewd performers. Gone are days of decency and decorum.

"Last Dec. 23 on Channel 2's "ASAP," a singer rendered a song and dance number wearing a backless and braless outfit. Not to be outdone, last Dec. 30, Channel 7's "SOP" had a sexy actress in a scanty outfit, wildly gyrating without inhibitions. Is this the proper way to observe Christmas?

"We censure the performers and TV stations involved. Obscenity has no place in the entertainment industry, much more on noontime shows."

Julia Roberts on her costars

JULIA Roberts, is costarring with **George Clooney**, **Brad Pitt**, **Matt Damon** and other screen hunks in "Ocean's Eleven"—in fact, she's the only female member of the movie's stellar cast. So, she did get cozy with any of her male costars?

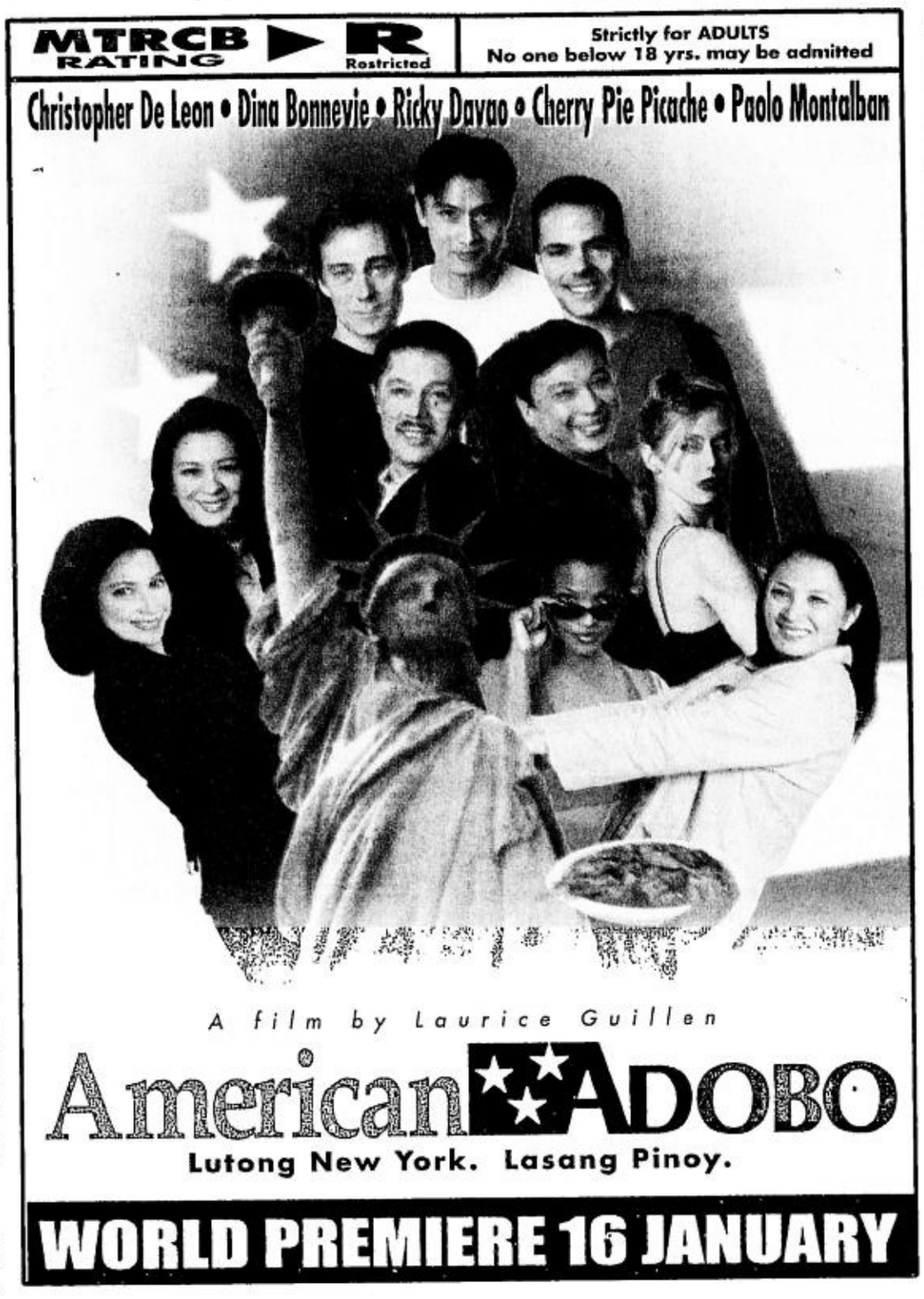
People keep asking her this question because she's split up with her longtime boyfriend, **Benjamin Bratt**, and in Hollywood, nobody likes a (romantic) vacuum when stars are involved.

But, so sorry, says Roberts, there was no chemistry off the set—with anybody. Her takes on her fellow-actors: "No, George Clooney didn't party, he spent a lot of time with his prayer group! Brad Pitt has been studying Physics and Architecture! (And) Matt Damon likes splitting atoms.

"Me? I just do six hours of power yoga at the end of every workday.

"George is great, but no sparks flew because we're very similar people. We're both kind of idiots, goofy, silly, we do anything to keep people entertained on a movie set.

"He's really smart, and just loves it when people are enjoying themselves, which is what I really admire about him!"



New ...

(From page A27)

yet what the name of the picture will be and only top people have so far received scripts and know what the plot is," said one MGM executive who asked not to be identified.

But the confirmed presence of rising star Yune in the movie gives credence to Hollywood gossip that the film is about the tense Cold War standoff between communist North Korea and the capitalist South.

According to some pundits, the film's "baddie" will be Yun's character, North Korean General Zao who uses an experimental "facial mutation" device that allows him to take on new appearances.

Isolationist and secretive North Korea, which has missile capability and is feared to have developed nuclear weapons—could well replace the former Soviet Union or renegade media moguls and the force of evil in the latest Bond picture, they say. *AFP*

MTV Asia Awards 2002
Categories & Nominees

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST- Philippines
(Keyword: MUSICARTIST)
A - Freestyle
B - Gary Valenciano
C - Lea Salonga
D - Martin Nievera
E - Regine Velasquez

FAVORITE MALE ARTIST
(Keyword:MALEARTIST)
A - Eminem
B - Ricky Martin
C - Robbie Willams
D - Ronan Keating
E - Shaggy

FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST
(Keyword: FEMALEARTIST)
A - Britney Spears
B - Christina Aguilera
C - Jennifer Lopez
D - Madonna
E - Mariah Carey

FAVORITE POP ACT
(Keyword: POPACT)
A - Backstreet Boys
B - Destiny's Child
C - M2M
D - N'Sync
E - Westlife

FAVORITE ROCK ACT
(Keyword: ROCKACT)
A - Bon Jovi
B - Coldplay
C - Limp Bizkit
D - Linkin Park
E - U2

FAVORITE VIDEO
(Keyword: VIDEO)
A - The Call (Backstreet Boys)
B - Weapon of Choice (Fatboy Slim)
C - 19-2000 (Gorillaz)
D - POP (N'Sync)
E - Lady Marmalade (Pink, Christina Aguilera, Mya, Lil' Kim)

FAVORITE BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST (Keyword: BREAKTHROUGH)
A - Coldplay
B - Gorillaz
C - Nelly Furtado
D - Alicia Keys
E - Linkin Park

FAVORITE FILM
(Keyword: FILM)
A - Charlie's Angels
B - Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
C - Rush Hour 2
D - Pearl Harbor
E - Shrek
F - The Mummy Returns

FAVORITE FASHION DESIGNER
(Keyword: FASHION)
A - Donatella Versace (Versace)
B - John Galliano (Christian Dior)
C - Marc Jacobs (Louis Vuitton/ Marc Jacobs)
D - Miuccia Prada (Prada/Miu Miu)
E - Stella McCartney
F - Tom Ford (Gucci/ YSL)

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How to register: Key in MTV. Send to 24304 and follow the step-by-step registration procedure.
How to vote: Key in the Category you wish to vote for and send to 24304. You will then receive this message. Key in the letter of your choice and send to 24304.
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Trials of obesity in 'I-Witness'

MOST of us have, at some point in life, struggled with weight problems.

How does it feel to be obese? How do they react to ridicule? How do they cope with the everyday trials brought on by their size?

Vicky Morales, KBP Golden Dove awardee for best public affairs host, tackles the deep-seated problems faced by the obese from all walks of life in "I-Witness," 10:30 tomorrow night on GMA 7.

Find out about the struggles of the obese to lose weight, the insensitive remarks they have to hurdle and the emotional torture on a daily basis.

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2 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 SPY GAMES THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 GIRL FEVER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 BAGONG BUWAN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film		4 WEEKEND WITH POPS Onstage	4 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 ON THE LINE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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3 (DTS)	YAMASHITA
4 GOLD (DTS)	GIRL FEVER
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
6 GOLD (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	BAGONG BUWAN
9	WALANG IWANAN
10	HUBOG

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

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3 (DTS)	BRO
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana Cinema (Pasay) tel 831.6603

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2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG

Starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

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2	PEKSMAN
3	GIRLS FEVER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG

Metropolis star 543.3927 loc. 150

1	PEKSMAN
2	HUBOG
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
6	SPY GAMES
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

Premiere Cinema (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13 — Digital Cinema THX

1	SPY GAMES

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2	BAHAY NI LOLA

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	BRO
2	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
3	PEKSMAN

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
A	BRO

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PEKSMAN
2	BRO
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	HUBOG
5	PEKSMAN
6	ON THE LINE
7 (DTS)	SPY GAMES
8 (SDDS)	GLASS HOUSE
9 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Caloocan tel 362.3508

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Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	YAMASHITA
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	HUBOG
4 (SDDS)	SPY GAMES
5	PEKSMAN
6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 (DTS)	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
8	BAHAY NI LOLA
9	LORDS OFTHE RINGs

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

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2	HUBOG
3	PEKSMAN
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
7 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	GIRL FEVER

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2	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
3 (DTS)	HUBOG
4	PEKSMAN
5 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SPY GAMES

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PEKSMAN

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG RESERVE HUBOG

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2	LORD OF THE RING
3	YAMASHITA

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	PEKSMAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
4	PEKSMAN
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	BRO
3	PEKSMAN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	

Berma tel 879.2029

1	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	PEKSMAN

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	BRO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	HUBOG
2	PEKSMAN
3 (DTS)	SPY GAMES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (DTS)	PEKSMAN
3 (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
4	HUBOG

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	PEKSMAN
2 (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
3 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	HUBOG

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HUBOG
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

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1	HUBOG
2	BRO
3 (DOLBY)	MUSKETEERS
4 (DTS)	SUMMER CATCH

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

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2	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
3	PEKSMAN
4 (DTS)	SPY GAMES

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

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3	MUSKETEERS

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5	SPY GAMES
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8	BAGONG BUWAN

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2	LORD OF THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
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5	SPY GAMES
6	PEKSMAN
7	YAMASHITA
8	BAGONG BUWAN

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	ON THE LINE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
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FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

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TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	KNIGHT'S TAIL / THE BODY

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REMAR	WALANG IWANAN
REMAR-2	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

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A	BAGONG BUWAN
B	WALANG IWANAN
C	KAMIY TAO LAMANG

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CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS

CAINTA RIZAL

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CINEMA-1	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
CINEMA-3	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GIRL FEVER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	TATARIN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SPY GAME
CINEMA-12	ON THE LINE
CINEMA-14	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-15	LORD OF THE RINGS

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-3	SPY GAME
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CINEMA-6	THE LORD OF THE RINGS

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12	TATARIN

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3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	WALANG IWANAN

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3	ON THE LINE
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	WOLF GIRL
6	SPY GAMES

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

New Bond movie to start filming in Britain

LOS ANGELES—The latest James Bond spy film is set to begin filming in Britain next week, studio executives said Thursday, with details of the movie's plot shrouded in unusual secrecy.

The film, the 20th in the saga of the world's most famous and suave secret agent, will be released in November to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the release of the first Bond picture, "Dr. No."

"We're thrilled to start filming on what promises to be one of the greatest Bond films ever," said producers Michael G. Wilson and Barabara Broccoli in a statement received here.

Irish star Pierce Brosnan will reprise his role as 007 while actress Halle Berry and Korean-American actor Rick Yune, John Cleese and Dame Judy Dench will play alongside him.

But while the film's Hollywood distributor, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM), is beginning to hype the return of 007, studio executives are keeping mum about the title of the film and its premise.

"We don't know

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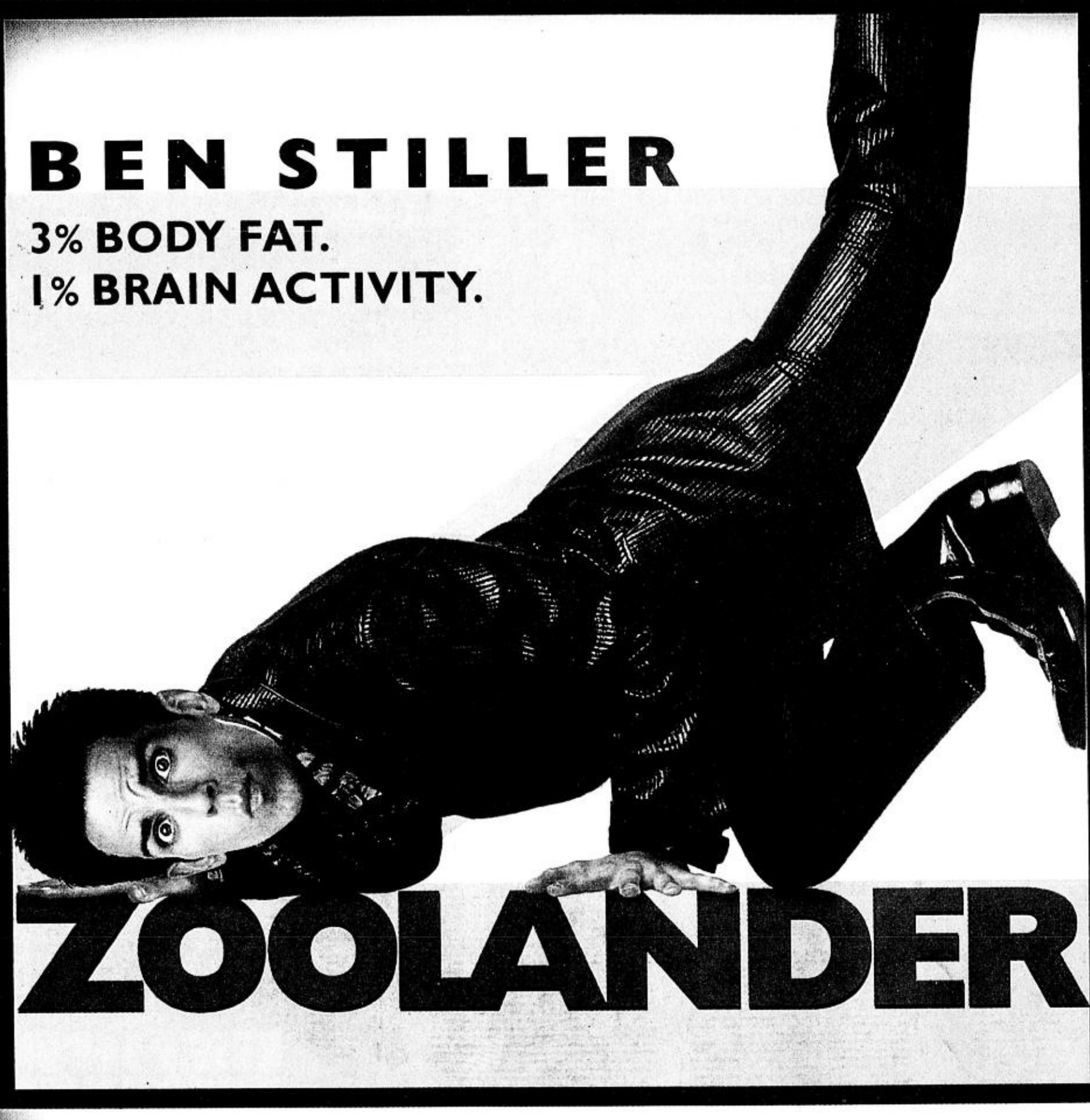

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WELCOME Eliseo B. Santiago, the new chair of the Shell companies in the Philippines.

SHELL chief executives all. (From left) Adrian Loader, Cesar Buenaventura and Eliseo Santiago.

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

AS a young boy, Eliseo B. Santiago used to walk past the San Miguel brewing plant in Polo, Valenzuela, where his father worked as an accounting clerk.

Santiago never failed to walk up to the giant glass windows and spend minutes just looking at how the bottles would come in at one end, fill with beer somewhere in the middle and got capped and packed in boxes at the other end.

It was then the little boy, who worked with his parents in their poultry farm, decided to one day become a mechanical engineer.

He eventually took up mechanical engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology. And because he had a passion for it, he naturally excelled in it, winning for himself a gold medal for being an outstanding student.

This was the reason why Renato Santos, refinery manager of Shell Pilipinas Inc. (now Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.) at the time, recruited him and other top graduates of top engineering schools to work for the company.

Little did they know that the slight 21-year-old recruit would one day become chair of the Shell group of companies in the Philippines.

Lucky break

"I was lucky at that time because the eight people who interviewed me, including three Caucasians, asked me about thermodynamics and internal combustion engines. I happened to be very fascinated with these two subjects," Santiago told SundayBiz in his first interview after assuming his new post on Jan. 2.

ELI and his wife Eleanor, a registered nurse, he met at the Tabangao refinery.

FIRST JOB

He was first put to work as a project engineer with the Batangas-Manila pipeline.

His salary was P600 in 1971, which was the highest offer he got when he graduated. Procter and Gamble also tried to recruit him but was willing to give him only P550 a month.

Santiago's salary was bigger than other graduates got at the time. He says his salary was at least enough to qualify him for a car loan.

He used the loan to get himself his first car—a Ford Escort—for P12,000.

But his very first salary he gave to his parents, from whom he learned many of life's lessons.

These lessons, Santiago says, became the foundation upon which he built his stellar career with the oil giant.

"I learned the value of hard work from my parents. This does not mean that you have to just work all the time, but to work hard to be the best in whatever you are doing," Santiago says.

Hard work

Santiago learned the value of hard work early on, as he watched his parents tend the poultry farm and vegetable garden. It was this poultry farm that put Eli, his six brothers and one sister through school.

"We did not have any helper when we were in school. What we did was to go to school in shifts so that somebody would always be left behind to help in the farm. I even remember delivering eggs on my way to school," he says.

Santiago adds that his parents have always stressed the value of integrity.

"They always told us that we would never amount to anything, no matter how progressive we would become, if we were not honest to ourselves and to other people," he says.

Lastly, Santiago relates that his parents instilled in their minds that they should never stop learning new things.

His father was the prime example, as he was able to put up and run a profitable business despite being just a high school graduate.

"He learned the business because he was always reading about new ways to improve the productivity of the farm. He read magazines and he never stopped wanting to learn new things," Santiago says.

With hard work, integrity and continuous learning as his values, Santiago was able to climb up the Shell corporate ladder fairly quickly.

From the refinery where he worked for 13 years, he was transferred to the head office in Manila where he learned more about the commercial side of the business. He was responsible for such vital operations as acquiring crude oil for Shell.

Well-rounded

"I moved to Manila with the plan that I would move back to the refinery as general manager after two to three years. I never went back," Santiago says.

He stayed on in Manila to learn more about the other operations of Shell, including the economics of the oil business.

These experiences equipped him to take on the considerable responsibility of heading the operations of the Shell companies in the Caribbean as chief executive officer.

He was the first non-British national to hold that position, handling three different Shell companies in the territory.

The first two to three months were difficult, he says, as the people were skeptical about this Filipino who was sent to be their new CEO.

"I eventually got their respect. By the time I left after almost four years, the profitability of the three companies improved significantly. It has been many years but I still get messages from them telling me how well they are doing. It is heartwarming because they still consider me a part of their success," Santiago says.

From the Caribbean, he worked for a

CEO/ B3

Founder's death poses dilemma for Wendy's

NEW YORK—Where's the beef for Wendy's International Inc. following the death of founder and chief pitchman Dave Thomas?

Right up until Thomas' death on Tuesday, the company invested hundreds of millions of dollars in making its folksy former chair one of the most recognizable spokesmen in the world.

Now, like Walt Disney Co., and Tricon Global Restaurants' KFC with its founder Colonel Harlan Sanders in past years, Wendy's will have to decide what to do when an icon departs the scene.

In the Disney version, the ubiquitous founder's image was reverently retired, and the company struggled for years. KFC took another route, turning its late founder into a cartoon chicken salesman.

Whichever path it takes, Wendy's will have a big void to fill. After more than 800 commercials featuring Thomas, Wendy's must first choose whether to stick with the homespun ads as square as its trademark hamburgers or come up with a whole new concept.

The company's annual advertising budget stands at about $300 million, according to executive vice president of marketing Don Calhoon.

"They're going to have to turn over a new leaf, because the old leaf was Dave Thomas," said Mark DiMassimo, president and executive creative director of DiMassimo Brand Advertising. "Try as they did in the last few years, they haven't been able to do better."

One road Wendy's says it won't travel is to create an animated Dave Thomas.

KFC, which has long used the image of the bearded colonel in its marketing efforts, created a cartoon version of its founder, using the voice of actor Randy Quaid.

Thomas, coincidentally, got his start working with Sanders when the restaurant chain was still called Kentucky Fried Chicken. *Reuters*

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Sisters do well in comb and scissors venture

BY MICHELLE V. REMO

THE NAME "Bruno's" for a barbershop is not surprising since it connotes a very male image.

But what is surprising is finding the barbershop is owned and run by women. And sisters at that.

Bruno's Barbers, which opened in 1990, is owned by Amy, Joyce, Karina and Peachy, better known as the Manas sisters.

Amy says the idea of putting up Bruno's Barbers popped into her head when she was having a hard time looking for a decent place to take her son for a haircut. "My son was 6 years old then and I couldn't find a decent, clean barbershop for him. I had to take him all the way to a Makati salon. So when I saw a space in Alabang, we got it and opened one (barbershop) there," says Amy.

AMY Manas-Pascual, Joyce Manas and Karina Manas-Manapat.

Karina says she was taking her post-graduate studies in the United States when Amy asked her to come home and help her put up Bruno's.

She says that, initially, Bruno's was a partnership between Amy and her. But when they saw the need to expand, they asked their two sisters to join them.

Joyce says, "I was working in the marketing (department) of Edsa Shangri-La hotel, until I was tapped to join them."

The fourth sister, Peachy, decided to also invest in Bruno's but is not an active partner.

PINOY ENTREPRENEURS

Getting women in

Asked why they chose the name "Bruno's," the sisters say they just wanted something masculine sounding. Amy says the concept was to put up a shop that had a more relaxing ambiance compared with other barbershops. She says the ambiance is probably the reason women also come to their shops.

"You'd be surprised that a lot of women come to our shops. It's probably because of the tidier ambiance compared with other barbershops where I couldn't even get my manicure," says Amy.

She adds that most women come to have either a hot oil treatment or hair trim while waiting for their boyfriends, husbands or sons.

The sisters say that besides comfort, another major catch of going to Bruno's is its services cost less than those of other salons. Joyce says one can get a haircut at Bruno's for P120.

Other barbershops charge anywhere between P100 and over P1,000.

Joyce says that with the places where Bruno's are situated (commercial areas, villages), customers come mostly from the AB classes. She adds, though, that they also have a share of the C market because of their pricing.

ABC's of business

Growing up with the ABCs of doing business is probably how the Manas sisters do well in handling Bruno's. Even as a kid, Amy had her taste of owning a business: "When I was 10 years old, my cousin and I put up a small canteen in my aunt's hospital in Dagupan." She says that early, she already found it interesting to run her own business.

The Manas sisters also seem to enjoy being their own bosses. After graduation, Amy worked for only a year as an employee in the Bank of the Philippine Islands. She resigned to put up a video shop with Karina.

Amy says the video shop gave them profits, which enabled Karina to finance her post-graduate studies abroad and travel to Europe several times. But they had to close it when they couldn't manage it anymore after they moved residences. At the same time, many video shops started to open, making competition tough.

Joyce says their parents, who have a fish farm in Dagupan, are proud of what they have accomplished with Bruno's.

Coming from a business-oriented family, the sisters say their parents are supportive and were even their financiers when Bruno's was just starting. Amy adds that her mom encouraged them to be "financially independent and not just to rely on their husbands." No wonder she is able to fend for herself and her children.

Citing how Bruno's has impacted their family, the sisters relate that when their father was appointed PNB director during the Ramos administration, he was labeled as a barber by the media. The criticism then was that PNB was run by "barbers, bakers and loggers" citing the different businesses some of the directors were in. Amy says, with a laugh, that she even saw in a newspaper an editorial caricature about the "unknown" appointees of President Ramos that showed hair scissors and combs being thrown out of the PNB building.

Working together

While some people don't want relatives as business partners, Karina says that in their case, working together is an advantage.

With their different marital status, the sisters share their complementing traits.

Amy, who has had her marriage annulled, is the "bubbly and aggressive one who takes care of the finances," says Karina and Joyce.

Karina, the "happily married" sister, is the OC (obsessive compulsive) type who pays attention to every detail and puts order to Bruno's stores, say the other two in jest.

Joyce, the single one, "brings professionalism to Bruno's" with her management skills gained from her work experience in hotels.

The three say their closeness to each other injects life into their work. Joyce says they usually come up with ideas for Bruno's, like how to improve its looks, when they go shopping.

Amy explains that in terms of taking care of operations, Bruno's stores are divided among the three of them. Amy looks over the Alabang and Ortigas branches; Karina, Pasay Road and Libis; and Joyce, Greenhills and Rockwell Center. But the revenues of all the stores, except the ones in Alabang and Libis, are divided among the four sisters. Being the first two stores established by Amy and Karina alone, Alabang and Libis branches' revenues are shared only by the two sisters.

According to the sisters, they visit each other's stores because it helps to "have fresh eyes" look at them. This is because, Joyce explains, "when you're in your store every day, the tendency is you don't get to notice the small stuff, like things that need to be repaired."

THE NAME was chosen for its masculine sound.

Starting with a single store in 1990, Bruno's has grown to nine branches. The Manas sisters add Bruno's has been meeting their forecasts so far.

Future plans

Aside from the six branches mentioned, Bruno's also has branches on Adriatico, Banawe and Tomas Morato, all of which are franchise-owned.

Amy says she never thought her petty disgust over "cluttered" barbershops would lead to a big business venture like Bruno's.

Bruno's, which has 18-25 staffers per store, started with less than 10 people in its first store.

The sisters recall they didn't even have barbers until their first store was already under construction.

Amy says she just asked around for barbers. One barber she knew recommended other barbers to work for Bruno's, who in turn recommended more barbers, mostly their relatives.

The sisters also remember having a difficult time looking for a place to locate their shop in Makati, since no one "would want to have a barbershop in their building," thinking of the typical "messy" barbershops then.

But Amy says that when she let the landlady of a building in Pasay Road look at the pictures of Bruno's, the building owner was pleased and leased them space.

Despite having enlarged their business, the sisters do not mind getting their hands dirty. "Even up to now we stay behind the counter if the store supervisor is not around, and we also clean the stores if the janitors are absent," says Amy.

The sisters share with SundayBiz the joys of having Bruno's for nine years. Amy says one of the best rewards, aside from the financial gains, is the feeling of accomplishment. Karina and Joyce, on the other hand, say that it's the fact that "we provide livelihood for more than 200 families. And you'd be glad to hear that their (staffers') children are able to finish school, while some are able to buy their own motorcycles or jeeps."

With this in mind, the sisters plan to further expand Bruno's.

JOHN W. Haussermann

NEWTON Whiting Gilbert

MANUEL Montecillo

LEONARDO Siguion Reyna

ALFONSO Ponce Enrile

Getting to know a century-old law firm

ONE of the oldest law firms in Asia is the Siguion Reyna, Montecillo and Ongsiako law firm. Tracing its roots, men of acclaim who made significant contributions to the nation also were part of the prestigious institution, at one time or another.

Now on its centennial year, the firm was established in 1901 by Charles C. Cohn, a soldier and lawyer from California who had been a reporter in the Philippine Supreme Court. It was he who founded the Elks Club, where Americans in the early colonial years socialized.

In the early 1900s, when the Americans began their law practices in the Philippines, the Customs Office was one of the most fertile agencies generating cases, when importers frequently sued the Collector of Customs. In the litigious environment, other common court cases were libel, estafa, insurance and search warrants.

Haussermann

After working briefly with Charles A. Davis in 1902, Cohn recruited John W. Haussermann to join his practice. In 1903, they were tapped to be the Philippine branch of the Coudert Brothers, the first truly international American law firm with offices in the heart of the business district at 86 Calle Rosario, Binondo. Haussermann had earned the moniker "Judge" when he served as the Army's Judge Advocate of the Provost Guard of Manila. Drafting the Charter of the City of Manila, and being appointed assistant attorney general, were earlier feathers in his cap. Cohn and Haussermann continued their partnership after Coudert Brothers ceased operations in 1906. In 1908, Judge Daniel Williams and Van Dyke enlisted in the firm briefly.

Fisher

Passing the bar with reportedly the highest rating at 99 percent, Frederick C. Fisher had been a Spanish interpreter when he served in the Philippine-American War before joining the company. Francisco B. Ortigas, a renowned jurist and trial lawyer, joined the team which formed Haussermann, Ortigas, Cohn and Fisher in 1909. When Ortigas withdrew from the partnership a year later, the practice was left to Haussermann, Cohn and Fisher.

Newton Whiting Gilbert joined Gilbert, Haussermann, Cohn and Fisher in 1915. A former judge of the Court of First Instance of Manila, Gilbert had also served as the University of the Philippines' Board of Regents' chair, vice governor general and acting governor general.

"Judge" Haussermann withdrew to concentrate on reviving Benguet Consolidated Mining Company in 1916. He had been Benguet's lawyer, but when its incorporators went bankrupt, he decided that "I can't let it die in my office." The measure of his success earned him the title of "Gold King" of the Philippines.

Fisher withdrew in 1917 when he was appointed Associate Justice in the Philippine Supreme Court. By March 1918, Gilbert also withdrew, leaving the practice to Cohn. Fisher rejoined Cohn in 1919 to comprise Cohn and Fisher.

DeWitt

One who stayed with the firm for 27 years was Clyde DeWitt. He came to the Philippines in 1901 as a teacher, obtained a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1908, and returning to the Philippines in 1919, joined what became Cohn, Fisher and DeWitt. Toward the end of 1920, the firm became Fisher and DeWitt when its original founder, Cohn, left.

Two new partners joined Fisher and DeWitt at the end of 1922 to form Fisher, DeWitt, Perkins and Brady. Fisher was noted for his legal scholarship and publications, including Code Pleading and Forms. When he returned to the United States in 1927, the firm became DeWitt, Perkins and Brady.

THE FIRST American law firm was established in the business district of Calle Rosario, Binondo.

Perkins

The Perkins in the firm's name was Eugene A. Perkins who had served the colonial government in the Philippines until 1912. In 1931, he was appointed Consul for Siam in Manila and was later promoted to consul general accredited to the Republic of the Philippines, concurrent with his practice in the firm.

In 1935, the firm became DeWitt, Perkins, Brady and Ponce Enrile with the entry of its first Filipino partner, Alfonso Ponce Enrile, an eminent lawyer from Baliwag, Bulacan who had been a member of the House of Representatives from 1922 to 1925. William C. Brady left in 1936, and DeWitt, in June 1947.

Two partners, Contreras and Amador Gomez, were taken in to form Perkins, Ponce Enrile, Contreras and Gomez. Gomez withdrew from the firm in 1951, joined the judiciary in the mid-'50s and was named Provincial Judge of the Year in 1961.

Entry of Filipinos

As Americans began to return to their homeland after Philippine independence in 1946, four Filipino partners were welcomed into the firm in 1953: Leonardo Siguion Reyna, Manuel G. Montecillo, Gonzalo Gonzalez and Mariano Carbonell. Gonzalez left the partnership in 1955.

Juan Ponce Enrile, Enrique Belo, and Oscar Ongsiako joined the partnership in 1956. Perkins died that year, and in 1958, the lawyers decided to effect a name change to Ponce Enrile, Siguion Reyna, Montecillo and Belo. Contreras died in 1959, while Juan Ponce Enrile withdrew from the partnership in 1966, when he accepted a post with the Marcos administration as undersecretary of finance, and concurrently, commissioner of customs.

When Don Alfonso Ponce Enrile died of heart failure in 1967, ending a brilliant career, the firm became Siguion Reyna, Montecillo, Belo and Ongsiako. Belo was omitted from the firm's name when he resigned in 1972. Oscar Ongsiako died in May 1995, and in 1998, Rolando Mario Villonco was elected as general partner, vice Ongsiako. The company name Siguion Reyna, Montecillo and Ongsiako was retained as its trade name.

The books accumulated by the firm over the years form one of the largest professional law libraries in Asia, for which it was given the Centennial Law Library award by the Supreme Court on June 20, 2001.

Partners for over 40 years, Leonardo Siguion Reyna and Manuel Montecillo continue today as two of the Philippines' most senior trial and corporate lawyers. The firm has established a reputation for handling a broad range of cases dealing with corporate and business practices. Attracting foreign clients, it has expanded into the field of intellectual property rights. *Pro bono* cases are also handled by the firm and their lawyers are assigned by the courts as counsel *de officio*. The firm has 45 lawyers, 21 of whom are partners.

"In that essential institution which modern communities are rapidly learning to appreciate, an efficient and upright bar, the Philippine Islands are well provided for. The high standard of the Philippine judiciary is a true reflection of the splendid corps of advocates from whose ranks the magistrates have been largely recruited," Cohn wrote in "The Cablenews—American Yearly Review" in 1911.

A century after its founding, the firm of Siguion Reyna, Montecillo and Ongsiako continues to uphold a tradition of legal excellence.

Widow sells recession-proof furniture

BY FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—A search for the perfect *botaka* love seat will inevitably lead you to Marjo Gasser's furniture factory in nearby Bantay town.

The *botaka* love seat made of wicker and narra is a thing of beauty at P8,500.

For the uninitiated, the *botaka* is a feature in some Vigan furniture shops with its flat and wide arm rests as long as your arms. People think it is where you put your coffee cup or laptop but Gasser said this is all wrong.

"*Botaka* means you can put your legs up on the armrests," she said.

Ever since Mira Furniture's here was closed last June for lack of a permit, visitors have been flocking to her furniture factory.

It is the biggest furniture factory in Northern Luzon and, as far as the latest Lonely Planet series goes, your best bet for quality Vigan furniture.

Gasser said since she started her shop in 1986, business has been booming. Not even the currency crisis, the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings, the 9/11 attack and petty political pressure have dampened sales, she said.

In furniture fairs in Manila, Vigan furniture is a constant bestseller, she said.

Corazon Zaalberg, foreign attaché of The Netherlands, said Vigan furniture has no problem penetrating the European market.

Gasser has a constant buyer in Japan and also loyal buyers from Manila and other parts of the country.

She said her old buyers do not buy on the spot but give their specifications. Gasser's five artists provide the sketches to customers and the finished products are usually delivered in less than two months.

Vigan furniture pieces are mostly reproductions of the old heavy Ilocano furniture. Hardwood like narra, molave and ipil are used exclusively. No nails are used and joineries are dovetailed.

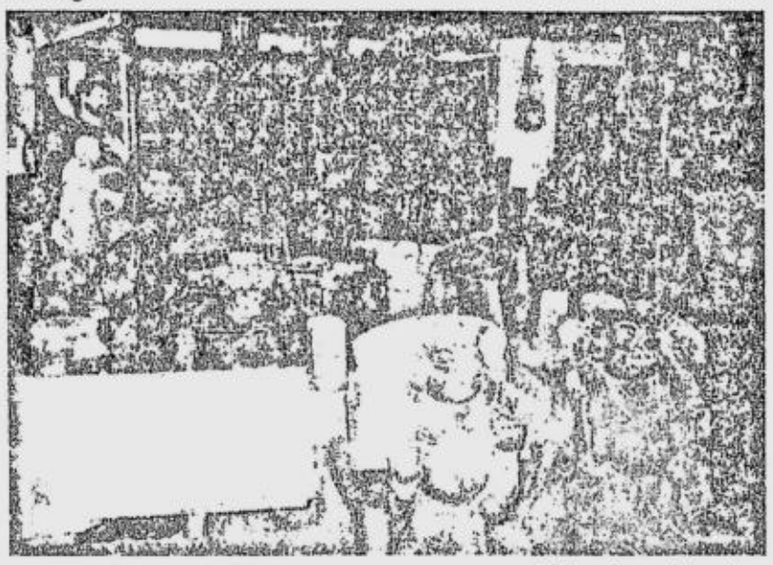
The Vigan pieces are minimalist. Carvings are few unlike the ornate Betis furniture but the lines are fine classic, Gasser said.

From antique to recycled

Marjo Gasser (nee Villanueva), a true-blue Bigueño, finished Business Administration at St. Paul's College in 1964 and took her Master in Business Administration at the University of Chicago School of Business Administration in 1968.

She was marketing manager of Quaker Oats in the US before she married renowned Swiss social scientist Stephen Gasser.

AS the business flourishes, so does the sentiment to promote Vigan's heritage. PHOTOS BY LEONCIO BALBIN JR.



IN furniture fairs in Manila, Vigan furniture is a constant best seller.

When her husband died in 1985, Gasser, together with then 4-year-old son Albert, returned to Vigan to take care of her father.

She first went into the antiques business but found that this was counterproductive to her vision of revitalizing Vigan.

She decided to produce bamboo furniture and set up her shop at Mira in Bantay. Mira was a hotbed of small-town political violence and Gasser was constantly being harassed.

She quickly learned from experience and, through negotiations, was able to pacify and even employ the goons there.

She now has 55 factory workers, including four female weavers.

Vigan furniture, which was originally a cottage industry in nearby San Vicente town, has caught on with other businessmen.

The Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (Ilocos Sur chapter) now has 20 members, almost all based in Vigan.

At first, Gasser got her wood from the Cordillera and Cagayan. Now, almost all her materials are gathered from demolished old wooden houses in the North.

"Almost all houses in Ilocos Sur are already modern. Now it is the turn of Cagayan Valley to demolish its houses and make bungalows," Gasser said.

Mira Furniture's items range from the P100,000 four-poster beds to the P300 dollhouse bureaus. Other best sellers are computer desks at P10,000; daybeds at P15,000; dining table sets at P50,000; bookcases at P15,000; *kalesa* seats at P8,000 and drawer chests at P15,000.

Gasser said that as her furniture business flourished, she felt obliged to promote Vigan's heritage as well.

Through the Save Vigan Ancestral Homes Association Inc. (SVAHAI), she was instrumental in putting the Vigan Heritage Village on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Heritage List in 1998.

"Precisely why Vigan is excellent should be reflected in our furniture's functionality and design," she said.

But the recent development in the heritage village when ancestral houses were demolished and remodeled made Gasser run for mayor in the 2001 elections.

"I know I have no money but we have to show that there is opposition," she said.

She expectedly lost and a month later in June, her shop was closed because she lacked a mayor's permit.

Her business should not be a showroom but a factory, Vigan officials told her, but Gasser said her factory is based in Bantay.

Getting the barangay clearance had been a burden and Gasser decided that she had to accede to the mayor's wishes.

Tourists and old buyers, however, were constantly hounding her to take them to her factory.

"It's like my shop never closed," she said.

Gasser is thinking of launching her website by March.

You can take the Vigan furniture out of Vigan but you can't take the Vigan-ness out of them, she said.

Resto pursues growth plans

ITALIANNI'S, the independent American-Italian dining concept in Metro Manila, continues with its growth plans in the new year.

Last Dec. 21, it opened its second Bakery & Café at the Corte Delas Palmas of the Alabang Town Center in time for Christmas. Plans are also afoot for the much-awaited grand opening of Italianni's Restaurant at the new Greenbelt Mall in Makati City later this year.

"We are aggressively pursuing our growth plans. While we are putting up more Italianni's Bakery & Cafés in high-traffic areas such as shopping malls to reach out to a wider market, we are also working on the reopening of our full-scale restaurant in Greenbelt," Bistro Holdings COO Merritt Croker said.

Italianni's Bakery & Café in Alabang carries the concept's signature old world charm with chandeliers, darkwood furniture, sepia photographs encased in wooden frames and big mirrors gracing its walls. These make for an inviting and cozy place to unwind after a hard day's work or a spot where family and friends can meet for a light meal.

The café comfortably seats 80 inside its quaint setting, while the patio dining area can accommodate 24 guests. A bakery where one can see and smell Italianni's fresh-baked goodies is also located in the café.

To oversee the operations of the new branch is general manager Amy Dizon and her team of supervisors comprised of Jet Allauigan, Jude Oposa and Buddy Sombilon.

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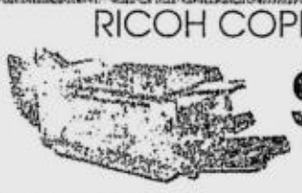
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CEO...

(From page B1)

year at Shell London and was assigned to handle the operations of the Shell group in Thailand, before coming back to the Philippines. He was recently named country chair, replacing Oscar Reyes.

He considers many people his mentors, but the two who top that list are his first refinery manager Renato Santos and Cesar Buenaventura, who was the first Filipino to head the Shell companies in the Philippines.

Mentors

"Atong Santos provided me with the guidance in the early part of my career and Cesar Buenaventura was the one who continually challenged me when I moved to Manila," he says.

These people and other officers of the company saw his leadership potential.

"My staff reports tell me that one of the reasons I am considered a good leader is that I can see linkages between issues. This means that you are not only able to come up with a solution to one problem, but you can see if there are other things or issues that are the actual root cause of that one little problem," he says.

"If you are able to see the bigger picture or the real cause and effect, then you are really ahead," he stresses.

Santiago adds that he would not have moved up the corporate ladder were it not for the unwavering support of his wife Eleanor (a registered nurse whom he met at the refinery) and their children Emelinda, Elmer and Elaine.

Santiago says he takes every opportunity to share what he learned with other Shell staff. He adds that he is the type of leader who generally gives his people a lot of space to do what they deem appropriate.

Coach

As the new country head of the Philippines, Santiago says he is challenging himself to further improve on Shell's operations in the country.

He explains that it is the goal of every executive to be better than the last one.

"I also want to concentrate more on people because in the end, it is the people who do the work. And one day, I am sure that there will be somebody who will achieve more than I have," Santiago says.

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Insurance Age	Annual Premium in Pesos	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in Pesos	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in Pesos	Self Support Year*
18	6,160	15	8,900	15	11,700	15
20	6,335	15	9,253	15	12,170	15
25	6,925	14	10,138	14	13,350	14
30	7,935	14	11,653	13	15,370	13
35	8,955	13	13,183	13	17,410	13
40	11,090	14	16,385	13	21,680	13
45	13,305	14	19,708	14	26,110	14
50	17,400	16	25,850	16	34,300	16
55	21,955	16	32,683	16	43,410	16

Note: Package includes Waiver of Premium (Female Rates) and Accident & Health (Twice Face Amount) rider.

LIFE SHIELD DOLLAR 9/11

Lifetime Coverage	$10,000		$15,000		$25,000	
Insurance Age	Annual Premium in US Dollars	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in US Dollars	Self Support Year*	Annual Premium in US Dollars	Self Support Year*
18	122.30	15	173.45	14	275.75	13
20	128.80	15	183.20	14	292.00	13
25	144.70	14	207.05	13	331.75	13
30	176.60	13	254.90	13	411.50	12
35	215.70	13	313.55	13	509.25	13
40	271.60	13	397.40	12	649.00	12
45	338.40	13	497.60	12	816.00	12
50	425.10	12	627.65	12	1,032.75	12
55	532.20	13	788.30	13	1,300.50	13

Note: Package includes the Waiver of Premium (Female Rates) rider.

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*Allowing your policy to "self-support" simply means that dividends earned and the interest credited on them will be used to pay for future premiums beyond a certain year called the "self-support year". the accumulated dividends will act as the fund which future premiums will be drawn.

LIFE PROTECT 9/11

Principal Sum	Occupation Description: Office Type	Limited Manual	Skilled Manual	Heavy Labor
250,000	567.13	708.13	1,134.25	1,416.25
500,000	1,134.25	1,416.25	2,268.00	2,832.00
1,000,000	2,268.00	2,832.00	4,535.50	5,663.50

For inquiries regarding your specific occupational class, please contact Philam Call Center.

Express Application Form

PROPOSED INSURED

Surname	Given Name	Middle Name
Aliases	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
Sex O Male O Female	Age	Height
Civil Status O Single O Married O Widow O Separated		Weight
Residence Address		Telephone No.
Business Address		Bus. Tel. No.
Specific Occupation and Duties		Annual Income
Relationship of Proposed Insured to Owner Payor (if applicable)		
PRODUCT NAME O Life Shield 9/11 O Life Shield Dollar 9/11 O Life Protect 9/11		
AMOUNT OF COVERAGE	RIDER (if applicable)	
Beneficiary's Name		Age

OWNER / PAYOR

Surname	Given Name	Middle Name
Aliases	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
Sex O Male O Female	Age	Height
Civil Status O Single O Married O Widow O Separated		Weight
Residence Address		Telephone No.
Business Address		Bus. Tel. No.
Specific Occupation and Duties		Annual Income
MODE OF PAYMENT O Annual O Semi-annual O Quarterly O MSA/BPS O SMPDC		
IN CASE OF PREMIUM DEFAULT O Premium Loan O Paid-up Insurance O Extended Term Insurance		
Relationship to P.I.	Name of Trustee (if beneficiary is below 18)	

QUESTIONS: (CHECK ANSWER FOR BOTH PROPOSED INSURED & OWNER/PAYOR)

	PROPOSED INSURED	OWNER / PAYOR
A. Has the Proposed Insured (PI) or Owner/Payor (O/P) ever been told that he has cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, heart trouble, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous disorder? (If "YES", underline which ailment or ailments).	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No
B. Does the PI or O/P have any abnormality or impairment in his health or physical condition?	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No
C. During the past 5 years, has the PI or O/P consulted any physician for medical treatment, or been confined in a hospital, clinic or similar institutions?	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No
D. Does the PI or O/P engage in motorcycle / motorboat / auto racing, sky diving, scuba diving or other hazardous avocations?	☐Yes ☐No	☐Yes ☐No

For each "YES" answer to any of the questions above, please give full details in the space below. For questions A,B, & C, include physician's name and address, hospital, date and nature of consultation, sickness or impairment. Use an addendum form (FormGF7C) for additional answers and/or beneficiaries. Please don't forget to sign these additional forms.

PROPOSED INSURED _____ OWNER / PAYOR _____

ENDORSEMENTS AND CHANGES (For Home Office use only)

I understand that all statements and answers contained herein and in any addendum annexed to this application, as well as those made to the Medical Examiner in Part II (if applicable) hereof are full, complete and true to the best of my knowledge and that any policy issued under this application will not be in force until I have made the first premium payment during my lifetime and good health. I also understand that Article 1250 of the Civil Code of the Philippines (R.A. 386) shall not apply to any payments made or to be made by either party to any policy issued under this application.

By purchasing this policy and signing below, I represent that I am not a U.S. person for purposes of U.S. federal income tax and that I am not acting for, or on behalf of, a U.S. person. If my tax status changes and I become a U.S. citizen or resident, I will notify Philamlife within thirty (30) days. (U.S. citizens or residents must strike out this clause and initial the changes at the left side.)

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Owner's Signature _____
Signed at _____
Date Signed _____
Agent's Name & Signature _____
Agent's Code _____
Agent's Contact No. _____
APPLICATION NO. _____
DEPOSIT PAID _____ CR No. _____
Form No. GF - 150 - A

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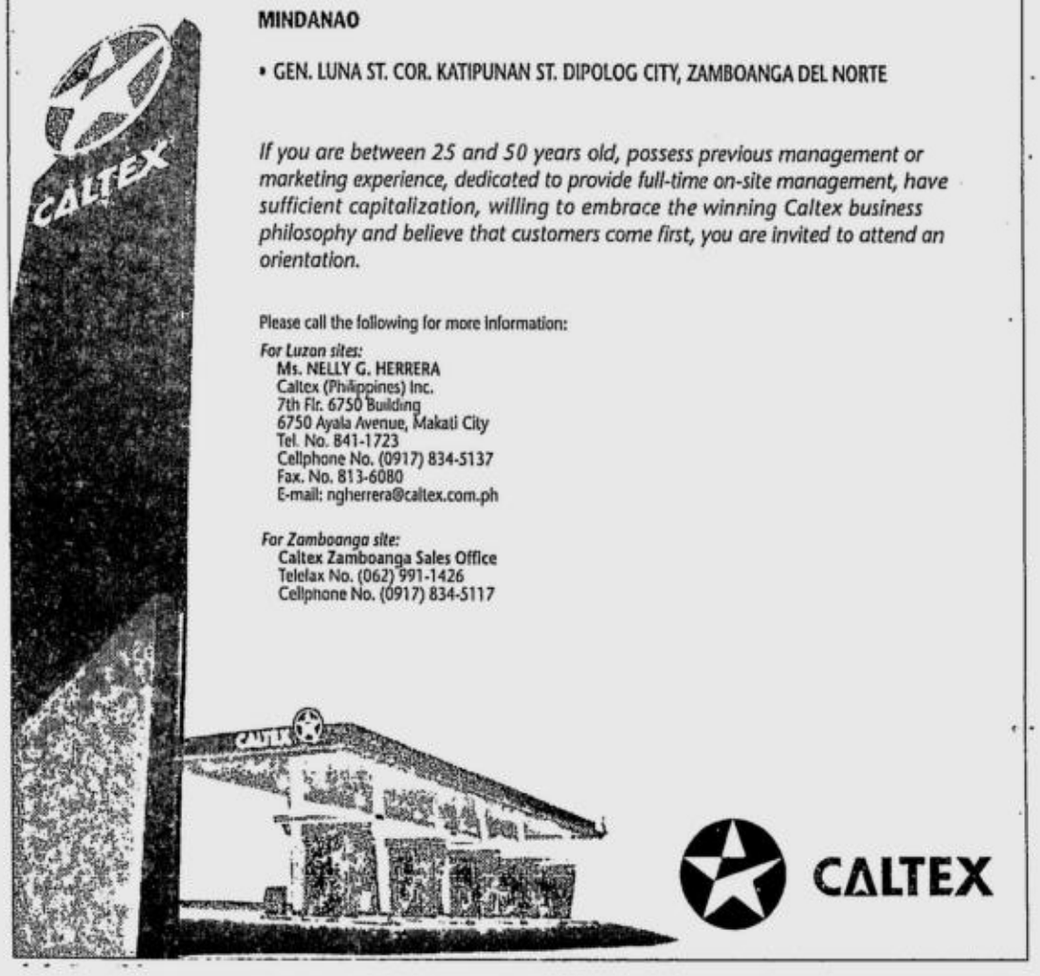

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CEBU PLAZA HOTEL
January 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29, 2002

TAGBILARAN, BOHOL
METRO CENTRE HOTEL
January 31, February 1, 2, 3 & 4, 2002

MANILA
EDSA Shangrila Hotel, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
February 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13, 2002

You may contact or send your resumé to corporate office:

Alliance International/Med-Employ
G/F Cebu Plaza Hotel
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City 6000 Philippines
Tel. Nos. 032-234-2749; 032-231-1231 loc. 5806
Cellphone Nos.: (Fara) 0919-2983-961; (Anjuli) 0919-5041580;
(Mary Ann) 0918-5587539

If you've got what it takes, you've got to take on this challenge.

GENERALI PILIPINAS
"THE INSURER WITHOUT FRONTIERS"

We are in need of the following for our soon to open CEBU OFFICE and existing branches in MAKATI (Paseo de Roxas), ORTIGAS (Emerald Avenue), and ALABANG (Ayala Alabang):

BRANCH MANAGERS – a leader among leaders, with an ability to organize sales and recruitment efforts of unit managers, with extensive experience in sales, preferably in financial services
UNIT MANAGERS – has strong leadership qualities to organize a sales team, he/she will be directly accountable for meeting targets, graduate of a reputable school with good moral character, good connections and experience in sales
FINANCIAL COUNSELORS – with initiative to be among the 58,000 professionals in 113 insurance companies worldwide who carry the winged lion reputation of the "Insurer Without Frontiers," must be willing to undergo training and be among the few in the country who could sell both life and non-life insurance

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUMÉ TO:
Agency Operations Division, GENERALI PILIPINAS
8/F Salustiana D. Ty Tower, 104 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City, Philippines
Tel: (632) **817-4871** • Fax: (632) **812-1009** • E-mail: **info@generali.com.ph**

A dynamic Company is inviting experienced and highly motivated individuals with positive attitude and willing to grow with the company for the following key positions:

AUDIT STAFF
- Male/Female, 22 to 26 years old
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- Must have experience in auditing liquidation of expenses/disbursements

BOOKKEEPER
- Male/Female, between 22 to 28 years old
- Accounting graduate, CPA is preferred
- Computer literate

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- Female, 23 to 30 years old
- Graduate of four years course preferably Secretarial
- Knowledgeable in Computer
- With 2-3 years related experience
- Proficient in oral & written communications
- Proficient in Shorthand writing

Please send your resumé or apply at the:
4th Floor, Edmark Building,
No. 355 P. Tuazon Boulevard cor. 21st Avenue,
Cubao, Quezon City
(Tel. Nos. 913-5515 / 913-1324)
E-mail: edmark@info.com.ph

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
An International humanitarian organization based in Manila is in need of a
PSYCHOLOGIST
for its Street Children Project

Qualifications:
1. Must be an experienced Child Psychologist with at least one year experience with Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances and/or Street Children,
2. Preferably with Post-graduate units.

For interested applicants, please forward your application letter and resumé at:
#24 Scout Fuentebella Street
Barangay Laging Handa
Quezon City

WANTED

(2) SALES EXECUTIVE

Minimum Requirement:

- ✓ preferably any Engineering/ BS Architecture graduate
- ✓ experience in selling commercial kitchen equipment
- ✓ computer literate
- ✓ can communicate well both oral and written
- ✓ can drive

Submit resumé with 2"x 2" ID picture, official transcript of records, certificate of employment and other credentials to **MR FABRICATION & SERVICING CORP., MR Building, F. Sevilla Avenue, corner Sumulong Highway, Bgy. Mambugan, Antipolo City.** Tel. No. 645-8190, 645-3791.

PASIG-BASED LAW FIRM REQUIRES A

LITIGATION LAWYER

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Preferably a graduate of U.P. or Ateneo, with 3 to 5 years litigation experience (judicial and administrative).

Interested applicants may submit their resumés and transcript of records to:

c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
SM Box No. 0113
5th Floor, Building B
SM-Megamall, EDSA
Mandaluyong City

WANTED

Female Physical Therapist/Nurses

for Medical Spa

Submit your resume not later than Jan. 14, 2002 at Suite 710 7/F Midland Plaza Hotel Ermita, Manila

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WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

BUSINESS MANAGER (CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER)
Minimum experience of 15 years in engineering and construction business, preferably with post-graduate studies or its equivalent

PROJECT MANAGER
Minimum experience of 10 years in engineering and construction works. Licensed Civil Engineer, should possess sound management skills

Apply in person, bring resumé and credentials at Suite 402 National Life Building, Session Road, Baguio City at Tel Nos. (074) 445-0475, 445-0478

FRAMING SUPPLY COMPANY NEEDS

(1) SECRETARY

who speaks English and Korean; and

(3) MARKETING ADVISORS

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1900 Singalong Street, Malate, Manila
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- **Taebo and Martial Arts Instructors**
- **Receptionist, Waitresses**
- **Secretary**

Please come personally at Podium Deck, Pioneer Highlands, Pioneer St. cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong Globe Plaza

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Employment Opportunity

Although some have characterised the prospects for stability in the Southern Philippines as problematic, a number of international business consortiums and charitable organizations from Europe and the Middle East are interested in Mindanao – with a view towards a positive future for the region. This will require the rebuilding of infrastructure, aid to the needy, and a stable political, economic, and security climate.

To lay the groundwork, The Mindanao Group has begun to actively seek out those professionals who can provide accurate, current, and objective perspectives on the present situation in the region and conduct reasoned analysis to predict future trends. Applicants may come from any field of study; however, the ability to speak Tagalog and English is a must. Speakers of the Tausug, Yakan, and/or Maranao dialects – as well as Arabic – are particularly welcomed to apply. A willingness to travel is also favoured.

Correspondence with us will be handled with the utmost discretion. If the foregoing is of interest to you, we would welcome your curriculum vitaé and an introductory letter at the following address:

The Mindanao Group
Suite 1402 1st E-Bank Tower
8737 Paseo de Roxas St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Metro Manila, Philippines

Tel: 63-2-892-55-85
Fax: 63-2-817-07-09 or 750-56-36

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care

CARE International, one of the world's best-known NGOs, works in 60 countries to provide development and relief assistance to the poor.

CARE Philippines, an international non-government organization implementing a three-year project entitled Community Organizing – Fishery Resource Management Project (CO-FRMP) under the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), Regional Office VIII is in need of a **COMPUTER SPECIALIST/PROCESS DOCUMENTOR** with the following qualifications:

- Must be a graduate of a 4-year course (preferably B.S. in Journalism or any related course)
- Must be good in oral and written communication
- With at least 2 years experience in Report Writing
- Must be an expert in computer operations
- At least 23-35 years of age, preferably single

In addition, FRMP Virac, Catanduanes is in need of the following personnel for manpower pooling.

1 PROJECT MANAGER
1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR
1 ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Applicants for these positions must be graduates in a job-related discipline, with at least 3 years experience in rural development, enterprise development, cooperative strengthening or community organizing work.

The task is to strengthen people organizations and cooperatives for the sustainable use of fishery resources and income diversification of fisherfolks.

CARE offers a stimulating work environment, and attractive remuneration and benefits. Please email/fax your two-page bio-data within 5 days to: John S. Manul, FRMP-Leyte Project Director, Email to: caretac@mozcom.com or carephil@tac.webling.com. For FRMP Virac, please Email to: carephil@care.org.ph or fax to: (02) 551-2631. CARE regrets it can reply only to short-listed applicants.

THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA)

Announces vacancies for *KING FAISAL SPECIALIST HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE*, RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

- Responsible for design and fabrication crowns and bridges including ceramic work using acceptable techniques and procedures.

EDUCATION / EXPERIENCE:

- Associate Degree in Dental Technology from accredited institution.
- Seven (7) years minimum experience in crown, bridges and ceramics.

TELEVISION TECHNICIAN

- Repairs, trouble shoots and maintains audio visual, TV, video, radio frequency (RF) (analogue and digital) items of equipment. Provides technical and operational support for video production and classroom activities. Performs installation, wiring, servicing of systems and items of equipment. Performs hospital TV service calls. Performs playback operation.

EDUCATION / EXPERIENCE:

- Associate degree in Electronics or related discipline required.
- Four years of related experience required.

PROSTHETIST TECHNICIAN

EDUCATION / EXPERIENCE:

- One year of practical and theoretical training in Orthosis after High School. With appropriate certification.
- Two (2) years of related experience.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS for HEMATOLOGY, HISTOLOGY, BLOOD BANK (TRANSFUSION SERVICES), TOXICOLOGY, MOLECULAR VIROLOGY and CYTOGENETICS

EDUCATION / EXPERIENCE:

- BSc in Medical Technology
- Four (4) years experience in assigned area
- Registered as a Medical Technologist

EMBRYOLOGIST for ART / IVF (Assisted Reproductive Technology)

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Bachelor's Degree in Medical Technology or Biological Science
- Five (5) years experience in ART Laboratory
- Must be able to perform micromanipulation procedures

LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST SPECIALIST for TOXICOLOGY

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Bachelor's Degree in Medical Technology or country of origin equivalent
- Five (5) years experience in a specialized medical laboratory area

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS should personally submit a detailed resumé with job description, together with certificates of employment, diploma and transcript of records, two reference letters (one must be from current employer), PRC card, board certificate and board rating, if applicable, 1 passport photograph between 7AM - 4PM for the issuance of KFSH Application form/Medical Questionnaire and Interview of POEA Officer to the:

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
GOVERNMENT PLACEMENT BRANCH (WINDOW R)
Ground Floor, Left Wing Lobby
EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City and/or at
POEA REGIONAL OFFICES

Deadline for Submission: 2 weeks from the date of publication

"Mag-Ingat sa Mga Illegal Recruiters"

NOTE: MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED BRING ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

Department of Finance
Municipal Development Fund Office
Community-Based Resource Management Project

The CBRM Project, implemented by the MDFO-DOF as a financing facility for LGUs aimed at addressing environmental degradation and rural poverty among the upland and coastal communities, is in immediate need for a **PROJECT MANAGER** who will be responsible for:

- Managing and supervising the technical, financial and administrative operations of the Central CBRMP Office and the Regional Offices in 5, 7, 8 and 13.
- Coordinating the activities of various agencies involved in support for the implementation of LGU CBRM subprojects.
- Providing technical inputs in the development, piloting and mainstreaming of Project Guidelines, Manuals and Procedures to guide LGUs in the implementation of their subprojects.
- Coordinating with the World Bank and other oversight agencies in the conduct of performance reviews and in the submission of regular reports.

Qualifications:

- Must hold at least a Masteral Degree with educational background on Forestry, Marine Biology, Agriculture, Finance or related fields.
- With at least eight years of progressive experience and demonstrated skills in management of foreign-assisted projects.
- Relevant experience in community based natural resources management projects.
- Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities, and multidisciplinary team of technical staff and experts.
- Excellent managerial and leadership ability.
- With excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Interested applicants may submit their application letters together with bio-data and complete reference information to:

The Executive Director
Municipal Development Fund Office
Podium Level, DOF Executive Tower Building,
Roxas Boulevard corner P. Ocampo Street,
Malate, Manila

Deadline for submission of application: **January 25, 2002**
Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

MINING SUPERINTENDENT

A licensed Engineer with a min. of 10 years exp. in a management capacity. Exposure in all aspect of Quarry Pit Operations from Planning Dev. to actual operation and related knowledge in mills and Crushers H.E. operations and in Environmental relations and Management a must.

EQUIP. AND MAINT. SUPERVISOR

He must be a licensed Engineer with a min. of 5 years Supervisory and Management experience of a preventive and corrective maintenance program. Exp. in all facets of Machine shop Operation and Fabrication an advantage. Hands-on exp. in Engine overhauls a must.

Asphalt Paver, Grader Operators, H.E. Mechanic with exp. Off Highway D.T. D8L, Airtrac Drills.

Send Resumé or Apply in Person at:

Suite 302 Kamayan Bldg.
#15 West Avenue, Quezon City 1100
Email: pacific@evoserve.com

GUARDIAN SOLUTIONS INC.

3551 Bonita Bay Boulevard • Bonita Springs, Florida 34134
Telephone: (941) 947-5445 • Fax (941) 947-2833
E-mail: gsiinc@worldnet.att.net

Phil.Address: #181 Purok III, Biday, San Fernando City, 2500 La Union
Telephone: (072) 888-5199 Fax: (072) 888-5016
Email: mhsipizd@lu.csi.com.ph
Cell Phone No. (0917) 490-3045 • (0919) 322-2055

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(No Experience Required)

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A Human Resource & Placement Company based in Florida, USA invites you to join the more than 2,000 nurses already placed & working all over the US with a GREENCARD.

Services/Benefits:	Documents Required:
Free EB-3 Processing	CGFNS Certificate/US License
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Free NCLEX & State Brd application	Current PRC License
Free NCLEX computer review	Transcript of Records
Free AIRFARE to USA	College Diploma
Training & orientation prior to departure	Resumé
Family assistance as applicable	4 copies 2x2 picture

Interested applicants may apply personally or call or e-mail us. Free consultation & orientation from Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Ask for Liza, Jen, or Mancy. Those waiting for CGFNS result or those planning to take the CGFNS test are welcome to consult with us.

RPF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & CONSULTANCY INC.
LIC. NO. 02-2093
FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY (RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA...)

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A group of companies requires the following:

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The applicants should have the following qualifications:

- University graduate or its Equivalent/Diploma of Associate Engineering.
- Well experienced on different Brands/Models of Copying Machines, particularly CANON, U-BIX, MITA, KONICA and RICOH and Fax Models.
- Or well experienced on different brands/models of AUDIOVISUAL Equipment/Money Counting Machines/ Mobile Storage System/Pitney Bowes etc.
- Age from 27 to 35 years.
- PC conversant applications preferred.
- Good English language command.
- Good perks await for successful candidates

Qualified applicants to report at:
RPF Business Management & Consultancy, Inc.
2128 ABC Taft Avenue, corner Quirino Avenue, Malate, Manila

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HEADER OPERATOR - knowledge in making bolts & wedge.
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*** FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY ***
WEB DEVELOPER - 6 yrs. exp. in ASP, JAVA SCRIPT etc., & MS SQL programming
SYSTEM ANALYST - degree holder with 6 yrs. min. exp. Master degree on C, C++
PROGRAMMER - BSCS with min. 4 yrs. exp.
NETWORK ENGINEER - degree holder with 6 yrs. min. exp. Hardware & Software Appl.
NETWORK INTEGRATION ENGR. - ISP infrastructure with min. 5 yrs. exp.
NETWORK TECHNICAL ENGR. - BSCS with min. 3 yrs. exp. in networking
HARDWARE TECHNICIAN - min. 2 yrs. exp. in hardware and all type of applications
TELECOM ADMINISTRATOR - degree holder with exp. in Lucent Divinity Programming

Interested applicants are requested to report at:
RPF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & CONSULTANCY, INC.
2128 ABC Taft Ave. (near Quirino Ave.) Malate, Manila

Mag-ingat sa mga illegal recruiters / For manpower pooling only
This ads is approved by POEA / No fees to be collected

TAIAN (SUBIC) ELECTRIC, INC.

DEPUTY MANAGER PRODUCTION CONTROLLER

Male, at least 35 years & above/ Preferably can speak Mandarin/ Excellent in both oral & written English communication/ With at least (3) years working experience in production operation & production quality for both in Assembly line & Injection Machine/Specialized in production procedure & control/ Technically skilled & with experienced in repairing, maintenance of production/molding machines.

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume together with 2x2 pictures & other documents to Human Resource Section, Taian (Subic) Electric Inc. SBIP-1 Argonaout Hiway Cor. Braveheart St., SBFZ 2222 Tel No. (047) 252-1668, 1669 Fax No. 252-1661 or thru SBMA Labor Center SBFZ 2222.

A manufacturing and distribution company of international established brands of consumer goods requires a

SALES MANAGER

- Male, not more than 40 years old
- Preferably college or university graduate
- At least 5 years experience in handling sales of consumer products
- Good contacts with key accounts and wholesalers in GMA and the provinces
- With excellent communication skills and able to relate well with all types of people

All interested applicants please send your application letters and resumé by email to admin@eupl.com.sg. You can contact us at 889-1363 and look for Ms. Lhyn Paule.

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Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
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SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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OBITUARIES

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12:00 noon
Day before publication

Notice of Death

Pilar Sebastian Alvarez

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 11, 2002 at the age of 78.

Her bereaved husband **Luis K. Alvarez Sr.**

Children:
Henry & Nellie, Helen & Henry (†), Moses & Betty, Rene & Elizabeth, John & Debbie, Melani & Jimmy, Luz & Ronald, Luis Jr. & Mary Jane, Claire & Aristedes, and **Michael**

Grandchildren:
Nathalie Joy & Jason, Harold Dexter, Hanzel Brian; Javelin, Lafayette, Ivy Michelle, Ivan Spencer, Noreen Gaye, Sharlene Faye; Myrie Gail & Peter, Iris Meryl & Ruben, Diane Cheryl, Tania Kaye, Kyle Jarreb; Timothy, Kimberly; Janssen Dale, Leslie Ann, John Derwin; Lorraine Mae, Geraldine Marie; Jefferson Harry, Dustin Kayne; Derrick Dave, Shereen Krystelic, Arnold Joshua, Neall Dominick; Alannah Claris, Akaylah Christine, Anna Carina;

Great grandchildren:
Jean Philip Magnus, Trisha Lauren, Tiffany Leigh and **Franchesca Nichole**
and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel D of La Merced Memorial Homes.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 17, 2002 at San Roque Chinese Cemetery after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Metropolitan Cathedral.

AQUILINO CASTILLO MANGOBA

Of Pateros, Metro Manila

October 19, 1941 - January 11, 2002

The family and friends of the late **LINO**, who joined his Creator on January 11, 2002, request you to join them in offering prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Yolanda and children **Mercedita, Merlinda, Elmer**

Cynthia and children **Allan Dennis, Achilles Dane, Ma. Erica Nickoline John**

Sisters **Ligaya, Jovita, Epifania, Marcela** and **Carmelita**

in-laws, nephews, nieces and grandchildren

His body lies in state at Chapel 7, Garden of Memories Memorial Chapels, Calzadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on January 15, 2002 at Aglipayan Cemetery, Sto. Rosario, Pateros, Metro Manila after the 1:00 PM Mass at Garden of Memories.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me, and where I am, My servant also will be."
John 12:16

JUANITA JUAN-AQUINO

Peacefully joined her husband, **Julito F. Aquino,** in the Grace and Goodness of the Lord on January 10, 2002 at the age of 86.

She will be most missed by her beloved children **Nelly** and **Chito, Carmen** and **Mike,** by her grandchildren **Bing, Boyet** and **Ginky, Jun** and **Mavic, Nathan** and **Jovie, Michael** and **Agatha, Warnel** and **Sherwin,** by her great-grandchildren **Kyle, Ianne, Mikey, Karlo, Jona, Luigi** and **Nikka,** and sister-in-law **Virgin.**

Her body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to San Manuel, Pangasinan on Wednesday, January 16, 2002l.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 19, 2002 at 9:00 AM.

THE MISSIONARY SISTERS SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Announce the death of

SISTER AGNELIS, S.Sp.S. (ESTRELLA DUNGCA)

on January 12, 2002 at the age of 63

at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on Monday, January 14, 2002 at 3:00 PM at the Convent of the Holy Spirit 8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at the Christ the King Cemetery E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

The Family of the late

DR. FLORENTINO B. OCAMPO

who passed away on January 11, 2002 at the age of 49.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Chapel 6, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Information please call La Funeraria Paz. Tel. No. 749-3806

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

FIDELIDAD "Fiding" VALENTINO NAVIA

1935 - 2002

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on January 2, 2002 at the Staten Island, New York, U.S.A.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on January 16, 2002 at San Marcos Cemetery, San Marcos, Calumpit, Bulacan after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved Mamang

Angela Udarbe Villados

Peacefully joined her Creator on January 11, 2002 at the age of 92.

Her loving husband **LAURO T. VILLADOS** (†); her beloved children **LYDIA** (†) & **CETONG** (†), **LEONING & NENA, JANE, WALTER** (†), **ESTHER & BOY, SUSAN** (†), **CLAIRE & JUN**; her grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 15, 2002 at 2:00 PM.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

CLASSIFIEDS

ARMED FORCE AND POLICE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

INVITATION TO BID

AFPSLAI invites interested buyers to bid for the following properties on cash basis.

PROPERTY LOCATION	MIN BID PRICE	PROPERTY LOCATION	MIN BID PRICE
Bo. West Talaongan, Cavinti, Laguna Res'l Lot 826 sqm.	500,000.00	Bo. Tandoc, San Carlos City, Pangasinan Agri'l Lot 2993 sqm.	119,720.00
Bo. Pinaglabanan, Pila, Laguna Res'l Lot 859 sqm. w/ improvement	300,000.00	Blk. 2 Lot 2 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	105,700.00
Brgy. Malabanan, Candelaria, Quezon Res'l Lot 400 sqm. w/ improvement	400,000.00	Blk 2 Lot 3 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	88,000.00
Brgy. Marama, Ilagan, Isabela Res'l Lot 600 sqm. Agr'l Lot 1,387 sqm.	90,000.00	Blk 2 Lot 4 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	123,200.00
San Francisco, Zaragosa, Nueva Ecija Res'l Lot 2000 sqm	490,000.00	Blk 2 Lot 5 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	102,200.00
Bo. Malabago, Lamut Ifugao, Res'l Lot 19,964 sqm.	500,000.00	Blk 2 Lot 8 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	102,200.00
San Fernando City, Pampanga Res'l Lot 775 sqm.	185,600.00	Blk 2 Lot 10 Cp Tinio, Cabanatuan City Res'l Lot 140 sqm. w/ improvement	102,200.00
Taguig, Metro Manila Res'l Lot 148 sqm. w/ improvement	566,310.00		

Bid forms may be secured from the **Asset Management Office, AFPSLAI,** Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City or from any **AFPSLAI Branch.** Deadline for Submission of Bids is on **January 31, 2002.** For inquiries please call 911-6156 or 911-2032-33 local 2229.

ASSET MANAGEMENT OFFICE

(PDI - Jan. 13 & 20, 2002)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
319 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 818-94-11 local 2325

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The LANDBANK Special Committee for the Selection of Security Agencies (SCSSA) is inviting reputable agencies to pre-qualify and bid for security guard services in the following areas:

AREA	APPROX. NUMBER OF SGS
1. Metro Manila (NCR-North)	300
2. Metro Manila (NCR-South)	300
3. Mindanao (Regions 9,10,11)	300
4. Mindanao (ARMM,CARAGA & SOCSARGEN)	300

The list of prequalification requirements can be obtained from the Physical Security Office, 3rd Floor, Reliable Building, 7230 Malugay St., Makati City during official hours from 8:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m. Requirements shall be submitted to the Chairman, Special Committee for the Selection of the Security Agencies c/o the Secretariat with office address at the Physical Security Office, 3rd Floor, Reliable Building, 7230 Malugay St., Makati City not later than 5:00 p.m. of January 21, 2002.

Pre-bidding conference will be held at the Multi-Purpose Hall, 8th Floor, Building I, 319 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Extn., Makati City on February 4, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. Opening of bids will be on February 8, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the same venue.

The Bank neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid, nor does it guarantee an award will be made.

LANDBANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSAL/BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL/BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

THE CHAIRMAN
Special Committee
for the Selection of Security Agencies

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

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NOTICE OF CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that a petition for the dissolution of TEL MANILA INC. has been presented to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All persons having claim against said corporation are requested to present the same at its office at Unit 3 Sunny Realty Compound, Sandoval Avenue, Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, Metro Manila.

This Announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the closure of said Corporation.

TEL MANILA INC.

(PDI - Jan. 13, 20 & 27, 2002)

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811-4370

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528-0213, 527-3342

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URGENT RECRUITMENT

UNIDO

The UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

is in need of a qualified individual for the position of

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Under the day-to-day supervision and guidance of the National Programme Coordinator, the s/he will provide technical support to ensure successful implementation of the Industrial Development Programme for Income and Employment Generation in Mindanao. Tasks and duties include:

- ✓ Provide the technical inputs and guidance in the implementation of the Industrial Development Programme Framework Plan and Consortia Strategic Plans/Logframes;
- ✓ Assist in the development of training materials, RTD Concepts, and other means of capacity building of the participating Business Support Organizations (BSOs);
- ✓ Undertake in-depth assessment of and provide feedback on the technical reports of the project's consultants/component specialists;
- ✓ Based on the TOR of Consultants, IDP Framework and Workplan, and Consortium based Logframe, closely monitor output/deliverables of both consultants & BSOs to ensure the timely submission and technical coherence of those outputs and or deliverables.

DURATION: 6 months (renewable)

DUTY STATION: Davao City

REQUIREMENTS: Master Degree in Development or related studies: Three to six years extensive experience in promoting and developing micro and small-scale industries including in the rural areas; Demonstrated skills in facilitating processes of change through training, RTDs and other participatory methods; Familiarity with Mindanao's conditions; and willingness to travel to rural areas.

Application with complete resumé must be received not later than January 23, 2002 to the Project Team, MEDCo-UNIDO, c/o 4th Floor SSS Building, J.P. Laurel Avenue, 8000 Davao City, or e-mail address **idp@mozcom.com**, or fax 082-221-8090. Only short-listed applications will be acknowledged.

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Bldg., 385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City

VACANT POSITIONS FOR PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT

(2) ATTORNEY III
Salary Grade 21 + allowances
> Bachelor of Laws with RA 1080
> Must have at least one (1) year relevant experience and four (4) hours relevant training.

ATTORNEY II
Salary Grade 18 + allowances
> Bachelor of Laws with RA 1080
> Must have been a member of the school's official publication during undergraduate or law school studies.
> Work experience and training are not required.

FEATURE WRITER
Salary Grade 15 + allowances
> Bachelor's degree in AB Journalism, English or Mass Communication
> Must have written articles in magazines or newspapers, etc.
> Should submit a sample written article.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
25 January 2002
Human Resource Division, Administration Department

January 13, 2002 -- Inquirer

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Ready for viewing on Tuesday to Thursday, **January 15 to 17, 2002**. The bidding proper will be conducted on Friday, **January 18, 2002** at exactly 10:30 a.m. subject to the rules of the company. Sealed bids can be submitted on or before the bidding day.

Disposal Committee
Negros Navigation Co., Inc.
Pier 2, North Harbor, Tondo
Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 245-55-88 local 3008, 3009
(thru: Mr. Juanito A. Tiu Jr.)

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- Preferably can communicate effectively in English
- Skills in business negotiation is important.

Requirements:
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Interested applicants may submit all their requirements at:
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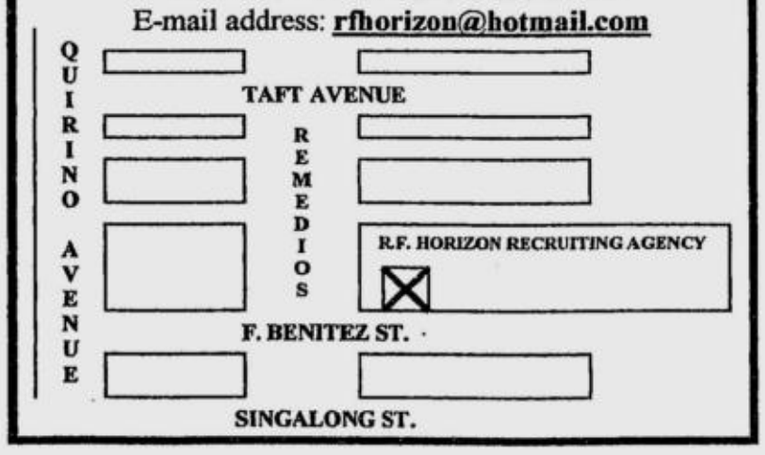

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SEALED BID SALE of used US government-owned household and office furniture, appliances, office machines, medical equipment, vehicles and scrap on an "As-Is–Where Is" basis.

The property may be inspected at the disposal warehouse, Seafront Compound, US Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on January 14-16, 2002 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 3:30 PM. Bids, accompanied by a cash deposit of at least 20% of the bid price, will be accepted during the inspection dates at the GSO Cashier located at Seafront Compound.

Please be advised that there is no vehicle access or parking available on Seafront Compound. Pedestrian access will be limited to the Roxas Boulevard gate only.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Julita L. Bautista was extrajudicially settled among her heirs per Doc. 1837, Page 73, Book IV, series 2001 before notary public Jovenal P. Pablo of Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac (PDI-Dec. 30, Jan 6 & 13, 2001).

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **Mr. Jose S. Manansala, Ms. Juliana V. Delos Reyes,** and **Ms. Tita Perla E. Rubio** whose photographs appear below, are no longer connected with **THE INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.,** as of the date indicated under their names and any transactions they made for and in behalf of the Company on or after the said dates **shall not be honored**.

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Summer Meadow
Subdivision, Salitran 2
Dasmariñas, Cavite
13 June 2001

JULIANA V. DE LOS REYES
Carmen Lorenzo, B 4
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Gen. Santos City
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(PDI -- Jan. 13, 2002)

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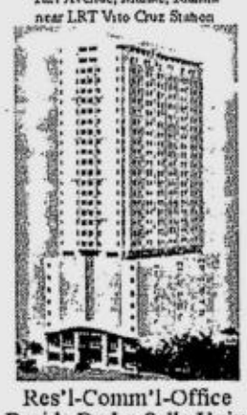

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DLSU System to adopt Mangyan school

THE DE LA SALLE University System, attuned with the Brothers of the Christian Schools mission of providing education for all, has pledged to adopt the San Lorenzo Ruiz Formation and Learning Center in Banilad, Oriental Mindoro, a school for Alangan Mangyans.

The pledge was expressed by DLSU System president Brother Rolando Dizon, FSC during a recent cultural presentation of select Alangan Mangyans in DLSU-Manila.

As a special project of the DLSU System, the school will be provided with academic assistance through DLSU-Manila's Lasallian Schools Supervision Office (Lasso). Financial assistance will also be extended in terms of material needs such as books and writing materials. The System's caucus on poverty reduction (CPR) will also extend livelihood assistance to the Alangan Mangyan Community.

The Formation and Learning Center was founded in 1992 to give members of the indigenous community in the area equal opportunities to study and consequently help them become productive and responsible citizens for God and country. The current school is closely similar to the first La Salle school set up by St. John Baptist De La Salle wherein a multilevel structure of education is used. Under such style a teacher educates groups of students in different grade levels in one classroom.

The De La Salle University System is a Catholic multiversity affiliated with the worldwide network of Lasallian communities. As a world-class institution whose component units manifest complementary roles, the System serves as a dynamic resource of the Church and nation in the process of social transformation. It participates meaningfully in the improvement of the quality of life through excellence in education, research and community service.

The De La Salle University System is composed of DLSU-Manila, DLSU-Professional Schools Inc., DLSU-College of Saint Benilde, DLSU-Dasmariñas, DLSU-Health Sciences Campus, and De La Salle Santiago Zobel. The System schools are supervised by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, a Catholic religious congregation founded by Saint John Baptist de La Salle, patron saint of teachers.

AUB OPENS BRANCH 17

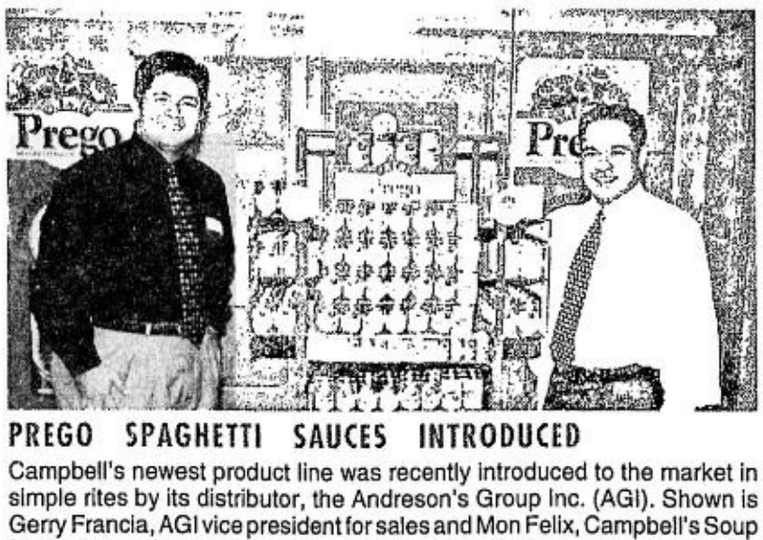
Asia United Bank (AUB) recently inaugurated its 17th branch at 1 Mercedes Avenue corner Raymundo, Caniogan, Pasig City. The Pasig branch is one of the six newly purchased branches by AUB as part of its expansion program nationwide. Cutting the ceremonial ribbon are (from left) AUB chair Jacinto Ng, Sr., Anita Ng, Pasig City Vice Mayor Lorna Bernardo, Ma. Luisa Cojuangco-Cruz and Elizabeth Tan.

BCSPI, STRIKEZONE CONTRACT SIGNING

Bong Coo Sports Products Inc. chair Bong Coo (center) recently signed a contract with Strikezone chair Jean Henri Lhuillier (left) for the modernization of its recreational center along Roxas Boulevard. BCSPI, the exclusive distributor of all Brunswick Bowling and Billiards products, will feature the Brunswick Classic scoring and management system, known for it's modern, high-tech looks and flexible functionality. Witnessing the signing is Mark Cerqueda (right), general manager of Strikezone.

POLICEMAN CLAIMS PAG-IBIG BENEFIT

Fromencio A. Raborar, officer-in-charge, Pag-Ibig Fund Cubao branch, recently turned over a check in the amount of P52,285.68 to Superintendent Renato Valebia of the Philippine National Police (PNP) representing his Pag-Ibig provident due to membership maturity. One of the top member-beneficiaries among PNP personnel, Valebia will use his savings to venture into business. He opted to remain with the Fund even during its voluntary days because he believes in the Fund's vision – to uplift the quality of life of the members through savings. Shown are (from left) Yolanda Febre, assistant manager for technical, Cora Antalan, officer-in-charge for operations; Supt. Renato Valebia, Soc Pastor, officer-in-charge for claims task force and Fromencio Raborar, officer-in-charge of Pag-Ibig Fund Cubao branch.



PREGO SPAGHETTI SAUCES INTRODUCED

Campbell's newest product line was recently introduced to the market in simple rites by its distributor, the Andreson's Group Inc. (AGI). Shown is Gerry Francia, AGI vice president for sales and Mon Felix, Campbell's Soup Philippine marketing manager showing off Campbell's Prego Spaghetti Sauces at the launch before the company's sales force and dealers at the Richmond Hotel. Campbell's Prego Spaghetti Sauces is now in the Philippines in four variants of deliciously rich, thick and finest blend of selected herbs and spices. Pasta lovers can now choose and enjoy Prego's Traditional Spaghetti Sauce, made from luscious sun-ripened tomatoes seasoned with aromatic herbs for the most traditional Italian eating experience. Prego Mushroom Sauce is a chunky tomato-based sauce blended with chopped mushrooms for added flavor that's truly enticing and enriching. Prego Tomato and Garlic is juicy tomatoes tossed with garlic and chopped basil for thick sauce of supreme quality. Prego cheese and herbs, the first white sauce in the market, bursts with creamy flavor and taste. Savor melted cheese combined with fragrant herbs drizzled generously on your favorite pasta. Prego Spaghetti Sauces offer pasta lovers the solution to quick, easy yet satisfying pasta meals for the whole family to enjoy. And just like any other Campbell's product, Prego sauces have the hearty homemade taste that everyone loves.

Saint Michael's College goes global

SAINT Michael's College of Laguna (SMCL), a highly regarded private non-sectarian school based in Biñan, continues to respond to the need for better education by establishing links with international institutions to ensure that its students cope with the demands of today's world.

SMCL has been forging alliances with FSC Singapore, which serves as its training partner, to expose its students to different cultures as well as to validate the curriculum taught by the school. In addition, it is also currently involved in an academic exchange program with Namhae College of Kyongsangnam, a government-owned college in South Korea. Under its international practicum training program, SMCL has affiliations with the following hotels: Marriot, Century Park, New Park Central Hotel, Pan Pacific, Plaza Royal Hotel and Japanese Convention Center.

Dr. Lourdes Almeda-Sese, SMCL's executive vice president, says that in the light of the globalization and information-exploding future taking shape, the school will continue to search, introduce and nurture programs, including non-traditional systems of educational delivery, that will empower and transform its students. "This will enable SMCL graduates to create and apply new ideas and provide world class quality service to the companies they may be working for within the country or overseas."

Dr. Fara R. Santos, SMCL vice president for academics, reveals that three colleges of SMCL, namely, college of education and liberal arts, college of business and information technology and college of nursing and midwifery, have begun to establish links with institutions that are leaders in their respective fields. This is an important development for SMCL since the country has been supplying many of the world's indispensable professionals like nurses, teachers and information technology specialists.

"The school's international exposure is a clear indication that SMCL's academic standard is at par with the country's top schools," Santos points out.

SMCL provides an impressive academic program at all levels, from pre-school to college. Its courses include accountancy, commerce, computer science, hotel and restaurant management, education, bachelor of arts, nursing and midwifery. It also offers postgraduate courses in education and business administration.

In today's knowledge-based economy, students at SMCL are assured that they are getting quality education because the school maintains competitive faculty members plus a curriculum that adheres and reflects the current trends and changes in the field of education. These are complemented by the school's modern facilities that address the needs of each course as well as updated resource materials including books, references and periodicals. SMCL has 50 computer work stations that are linked to the Internet via 24-hour leased line, which allows students to surf the Web without limit.

SMCL was established in August 1975 by a family composed of nine sisters headed by Pura Limaco to fulfill their cherished goal of providing quality education to the residents of Biñan and neighboring towns.

AKFI AWARDS PBSP PRESIDENT

The Angelo King Foundation Inc. (Akfi) recently awarded Ma. Luisa Perez Rubio, president of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), a plaque of appreciation in recognition of her valuable support during the PBSP's Angelo King building program held at Manila Polo Club. Standing beside her are Akfi officers led by (from left) Dr. Angelo King, ex-officio director; lawyer Jose Ferrer, secretary; Archimedes King, chair and Teddy Kingsu, president. Also shown (seated) is Don Andres Soriano III, board and executive committee member of PBSP.

FUSE DONATES VIDEOCASSETTES

FUSE president Salvador H. Escudero III presents Emilio C. Bernabe, Bagac High School Science coordinator and Juliet M. Agcaoile a set of Constel Science videocassettes while Dr. Mercedes Sanchez, vice president of Bataan Polytechnic State College receives a set of Constel English videocassettes from Helen T. Siy of the FUSE secretariat. Over 28,000 sets of Constel (Continuing Studies via Television) videocassettes have been distributed to educational institutions nationwide by FUSE (Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education). Shown (from left) are Allied Bank Subic branch manager Raul E. Peralta, DECS education program specialist Josefina U. Sta. Maria and Allied Bank Olongapo branch manager Serafin M. Jardina.

1st post-graduate course at Ospital ng Makati

THE DEPARTMENT of Ophthalmology of Ospital ng Makati held its first Post-Graduate course recently at the audio-visual room of the New Ospital ng Makati in Pembo, Makati City.

The course focused on advanced phacoemulsification techniques on cataract surgery enabling cataract removal through an incision as small as 2 millimeters. Guest speakers for the course included Dr. Adel Vergel D. Samson (fluidics and phaco slice), Dr. Victor B. Lopez (single-setting phacoemulsification), Dr. Carlos G. Naval (economics of phacoemulsification and various techniques) and Dr. Antonio S. Say (combined procedure and its complications).

Dr. Ernesto A. Santos, hospital director, encouraged the undertaking as "a contribution to the growth and dissemination of modern technology in ophthalmology". The Department of Ophthalmology is composed of consultants trained in sub-specialties locally and abroad: Dr. Willie Angbue-Te (vitreo-retina), Dr. Jose Marin Jr. (cornea and external disease), Dr. Manolito R. Reyes (Glaucoma), Dr. Everlyn Ambrosio (visual rehabilitation), Dr. Mariano Hilarion Y. Cadiz (vitreo-retina), Dr. Ma. Donna D. Santiago (ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive) and Dr. Edgar U. Leueberger (glaucoma).

Sponsors were Bausch and Lomb, Novartis Ophthalmics, Croma Medic Inc., Pharmacia, MTC Inc., Medilight Inc., Leo Pharma, LSGI Inc., and IOS Marketing Corp. For details, call the Department of Ophthalmology, Ospital ng Makati at 882-6316 local 214 or local 304.

HEALTH FOR LIFE LAUNCHING

Wilson Tieng and Dr. James Robey, chair of the board and president of Health for Life Inc., poses with Dr. Ben Carpio Malabanan during the launching of Health for Life product lines at Edsa Shangri-la Hotel.

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PLATING WITH A PASSION. Chef Ricky and his team intently at work

Kitchen works with Nobu

For two nights, Manila was treated to the excellent concoctions of the chef de cuisine of the award-winning New York resto

SEARED Tuna Salad with Matsuhisa dressing

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BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

WHAT happens when you put together the resources of two noteworthy foundations, the culinary expertise of five chefs who did their apprenticeship at the world-renowned Nobu restaurant in New York and Nobu's own chef de cuisine under the roof of an elegant restaurant that has the best view in Makati of Metro Manila? An elegant dinner that is sure to linger in one's memory and food so spectacular one can't stop talking about it for days on end.

Last Jan. 10 and 11, a fund-raising dinner to benefit the programs of Asia Society and Bantay Bata 163 was held at the Top of the Citi, an exclusive club on the 34th floor of the Citibank Tower in Makati as part of its "Filipino and Proud" series, the Asia Society seeks to develop a sense of pride among Filipinos about themselves, their history and their culture. The dinner also aimed to raise funds for Bantay Bata's children's village, which is currently under construction. Totally sold out at a hefty P5,000 per plate, there were 110 guests on the first evening and 116 on the second. Cocktails and a nine-course dinner were served to the guests, who raved about the food and the lovely table setting which was designed to emulate the interiors of Nobu in New York City.

Nobu New York is a joint venture of actor Robert de Niro, celebrated chef Noboyuki Matsuhisa and Tribeca Grill restaurateur Drew Nieporent. The establishment has received numerous awards, including Best Restaurant in New York City from Food and Wine Magazine 2000, Best Sushi Restaurant from Time Out New York 2000 and Best New Restaurant from James Beard Foundation 1995. Nobu's new style Japanese cuisine is a fusion of South American sensibility with Japanese traditions. Its chef de cuisine, Ricky Estrellado, is proudly Filipino.

Chef and team

Ricky has not been home since 1996 and his last trip home was particularly traumatic, having to battle with a life-threatening illness, which by God's grace he eventually recovered from. Having worked his way up from the ranks, Ricky now holds court at Nobu's kitchen in New York City. Even as a little boy, Ricky had loved to eat and putter around the kitchen, much to his mother's dismay. However, all that exposure and tinkering must have helped mold him into the excellent chef he has become.

Rex Soriano, Gilbert Pangilinan, Pierre Angeli Dee, Frank Gorriceta and Peggy Salazar, on the other hand, all took their training (for six months) under Ricky at Nobu. With the exception of Peggy who went to the same culinary school as Ricky (New York Restaurant School), all the others studied at the Culinary Institute of America, or more popularly known as CIA in New York City. Pierre Dee says that it was a

KITCHEN/ p.C6

CHEF Rex Soriano torches the tofu.

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Consumers send praises and comments

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

FIRST of all, we want to thank the president of ElectroWorld Computer for taking the initiative to respond immediately to the complaint of George Moberg about the computer he purchased. He bought the unit at Park Square, then transported it all the way to his home on a hired taxi. Being a non-technical person, he had to hire a computer technician to install the set.

However, there was something wrong with the modem. He complained to the store but was told to repack the whole set and deliver it to an office in Pampanga where the modem in question would be sent to Manila for inspection and possible replacement.

Mr. Moberg wrote us this letter: "I am happy that some instant results came out of that write-up (this column, Jan. 6). I was told on the phone by the store person that the president of ElectroWorld himself had ordered that I'd be given, not only a new modem and a new A-drive, but a whole new computer. And, although the warranty is only a customer walk-in type, the technician came within three days to change the unit. The replacement seems more advanced and it works better.

"I sincerely appreciate the fairness of ElectroWorld management in my case."

Quick response of BPI

MELBA Bartolome, former editor of Women's Journal, appreciates the fast action of BPI's customer service staff assigned to the express phone banking. Something unexpected happened to the cash she tried to withdraw from a BPI ATM in Glorietta,Makati.

According to her, she was about to get the dispensed cash that she had withdrawn from the ATM when, to her surprise, the machine reclaimed the cash before she could pull it out of the dispenser. When she checked her balance, the amount was debited from her account instead of reversing the transaction. She called up customer service that night.

The following day, a customer service representative called up and explained that the cash dispensed by BPI ATM machines are automatically retrieved when it is not claimed within 20 seconds. The representative assured Bartolome that her complaint would be processed within three days.

True to their word, customer service had seen to it that the cash in question was redeposited to her account.

"I wish BPI would reprogram its computerized system to flash a warning prompt on the ATM screen informing depositors that dispensed cash would be retrieved by the machine if it is not claimed within 20 seconds."

Nonetheless, Bartolome is all praises for the quick response at express phone banking's customer service.

Readers' feedback to food safety issue

FROM VIRGINIA P. Braga of Pex Inc. at Rm. 411 Makati Stock Exchange Building: "You mentioned in your column of Jan. 3 regarding food safety that you have yet to come across a local survey regarding food and dining out (in the Philippines). We actually do have a forum called 'Food and Drinks' where our community members post their view about different food-related topics.

"In addition, we have other forums that discuss other consumer issues, and our community members are always willing to voice out their opinion. For complete posts, you may go to PinoyExchange.com."

Readers who are interested to know more about the forum can write to Braga at ginia@iayala.com.

Evelyn M. Victoria of Sharp-Karilagan Training Academy wrote: "Being in the business of training, we believe that food handlers and management of restaurants and food outlets should first be required to train in the area of food hygiene and safety in order to avoid and prevent food poisoning and other food-borne diseases. Training should include an understanding of microbiology, food-borne diseases, preventive measures and hygiene management, food preservation, safe storage, cleaning and disinfection, and other relevant subjects."

For more information, write to Victoria at emvictoria&\@cfsharp.com or call 527-1565.

By the way, Sharp-Karilagan Training Academy is in the business of training people for the hotel, restaurant and shipping field. President is Conchitina S. Bernardo and Victoria is the director of the academy.

We appreciate the following letter of Robert Tiangco Reyes, current president of the Food Safety Institute Foundation Inc.

He wrote, "Food safety in the Philippines is at the bottom of the list of priorities. And with the changing of guards in the administration, food safety has again taken a back seat. It is unfortunate that the momentum we have worked so hard to establish at FSIF is going down the drain. What is more unfortunate is the daily sickness and death caused by food and water-borne diseases that can be eliminated, or prevented with the proper dissemination of information and training.

"It is indeed so sad that our government, who has the constitutional and moral obligation, is abdicating its responsibility over health and welfare of Filipinos."

FSIF is one of the organizations that paved the way for the signing of PD No. 160 declaring every last week of October as Food Safety Awareness Week. It is also an institution tapped by the Department of Health and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) to handle training programs on food safety.

In addition, it has trained regional health inspectors, hotel and restaurant management educators, and dieticians of private hospital.

For more information on FSIF activities, write to Reyes at olkahebo@surfshop.net.ph.

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

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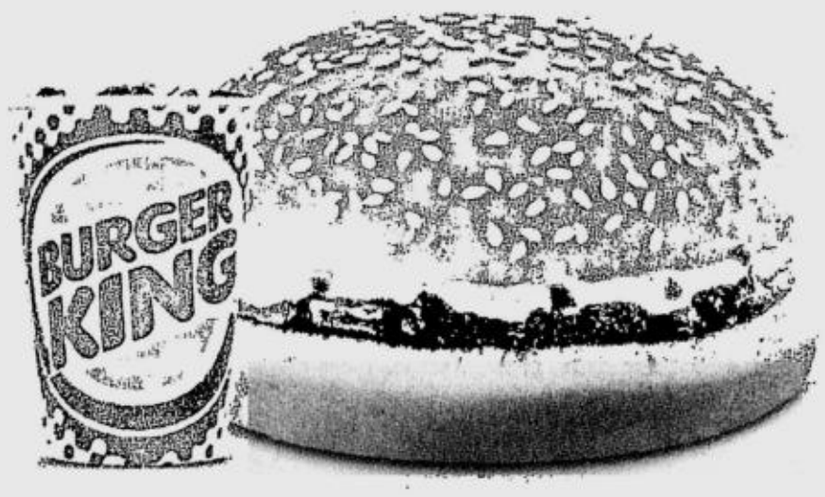

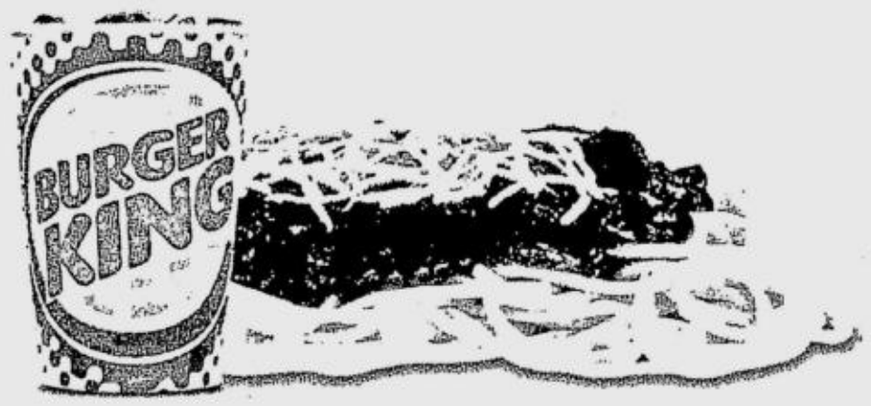

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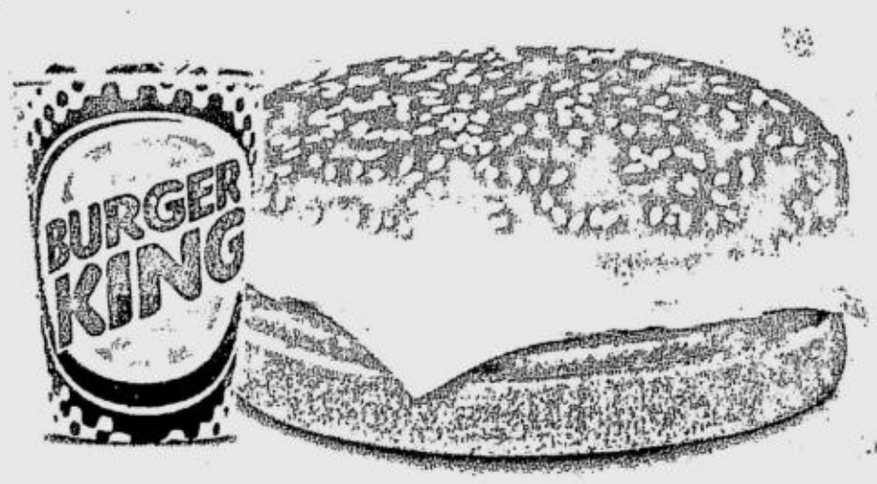

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Can she trust anyone again?

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

I AM 22 years old and I have many friends. It might seem odd, but I have more boyfriends than girlfriends (I am boyish and most of the girls hate my guts). I thought at first they would protect me, but I was wrong. They betrayed me during the most difficult time of my life. I had a boyfriend for four years, but I ended the relationship.

I found myself craving companionship, which I found in Yaz. I admit it was foolish of me to fall in love with someone I met only in the cyber. Our relationship lasted for 11 months. Everything was perfect until I received a phone call from his wife. She called me a bitch, *bobo* and other nasty things. I did not reply. I hung up. I talked to my parents about their annulment. They were also emotionally depressed. (Yaz told me it was a shotgun wedding and asked me to stay put, but I said goodbye).

My first boyfriend comforted me and admitted he was involved with a married woman. We laughed about our relationship, but my one and only best friend got mad at me for my closeness with him. She made me choose between her and him. I chose to keep silent, but I was really hurt.

I really hope I can find a friend I can trust. Don't get me wrong. You and I have God for our best friend, but we know no man is an island. I hope I can regain my trust in a man. I want to get back the trust we usually give to our friends.

Can you give me the telephone number of "Dial a Friend" or someone out there who can help me? I want to be able to trust again. My friends usually call me a ragpicker like the one in the book of Og Mandino. But I really need to talk to someone.

PIXIE

First things first in your life. Before you reach out to a new friend, arrange your daily life. Are you in school again? Then concentrate on your studies. Are you working now in an office? Give priority to your duties. You mentioned that your parents were undergoing an annulment. If they are now separated, with whom are you living? Take care of your daily life.

There is that song that goes this way: "The dearest things in life are around you everywhere. Right outside your door, why keep reaching for the moon?" Have a hobby that can keep you busy. Learn from your past mistakes. Text mates may be the last ones you can trust.

If you still want to express your pain and wish to talk to someone, try the Light of Jesus Counseling Center. Their telephones: 412-2372/73. Good luck.

* * *

THIS is in reaction to the problem of Shy Boy. He is not the only one with that problem. I also come from a broken family. My father left us when I was only 8 years old. He moved in with his mistress. I told my mother that if she would also leave to live with someone else, I would never talk to her again.

My mother assured me she would not do so. We went back to the province to live with her mother and sister. I did not finish high school because we could not afford the tuition fees and other school expenses. It was really hard having a broken family. But we survived. You have to stand on your own feet, *kailangang matatag ka sa buhay*. You need to be honest with yourself.

Now I am 35 years old. I'm alive, with God's help, and working for my own future. There are many problems in life, but we have to face everything. God presents many challenges, but He is just testing us. Thanks a lot for sharing this with Shy Boy.

PRACTICAL WOMAN

Thank you for expressing your views. I'm sure that not just Shy Boy, who has suffered, but others who read this will somehow draw strength to face the future from your example. All things work for the good of those who love the Lord. There is always a bright tomorrow. When God closes a door, He opens a window. And this is probably the 10th time I have stated this: More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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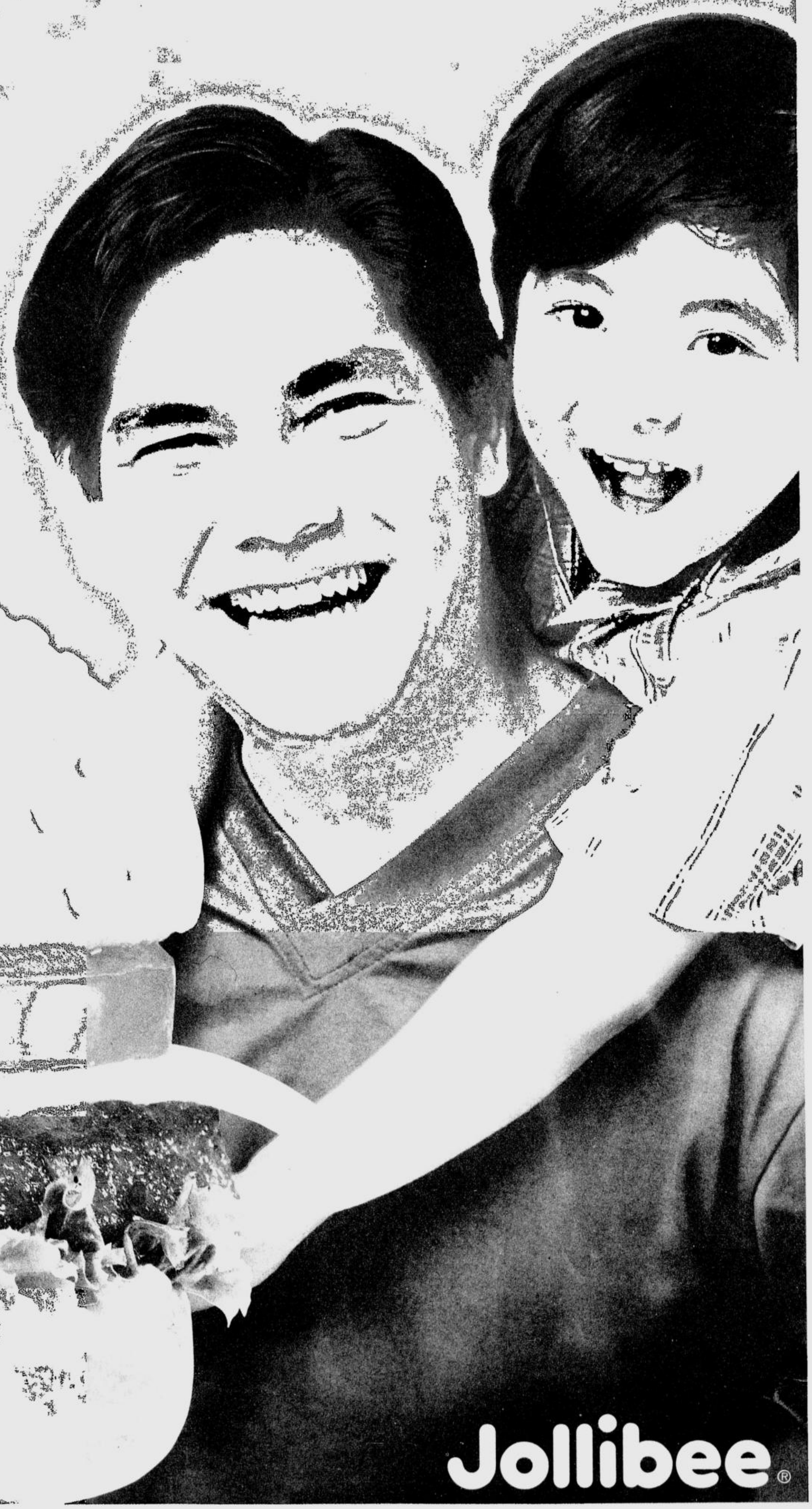
Langhap Sarap sa Jollibee



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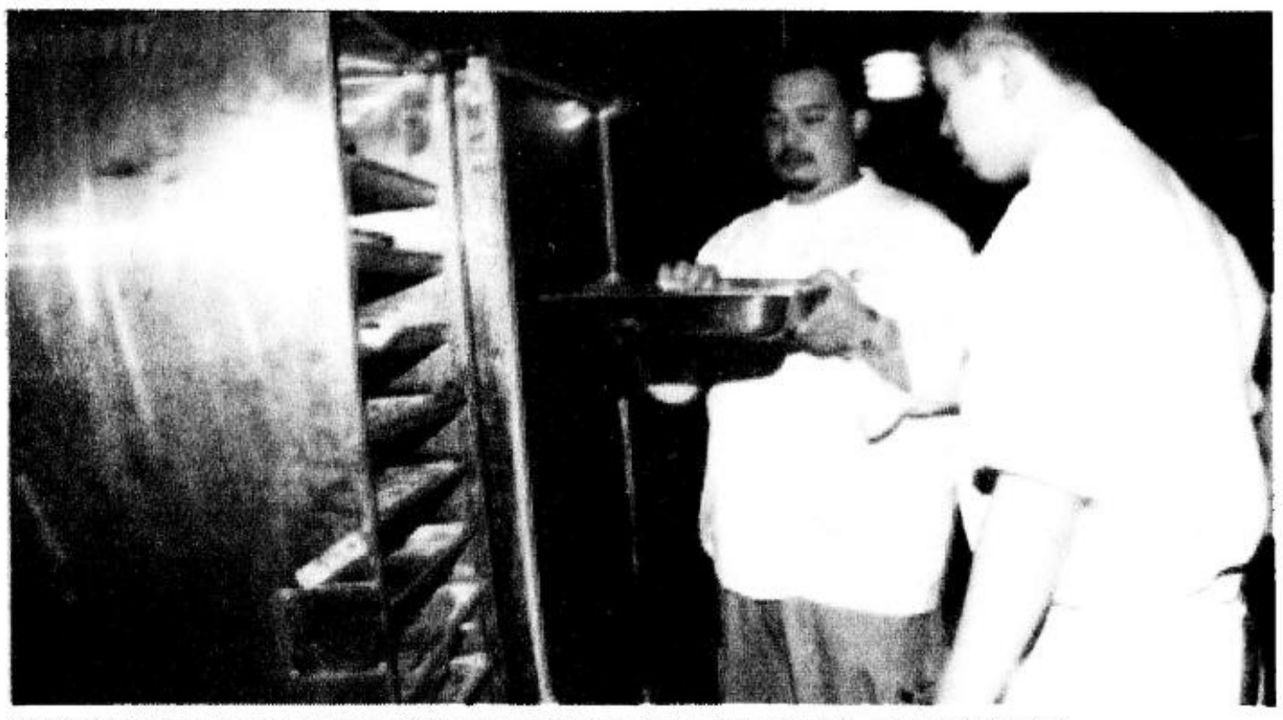
CHEF Frank Gorriceta gets hot and busy in the kitchen.



CHEF Ricky gets ready to chill the food with Jonathan of the College of St. Benilde observing.

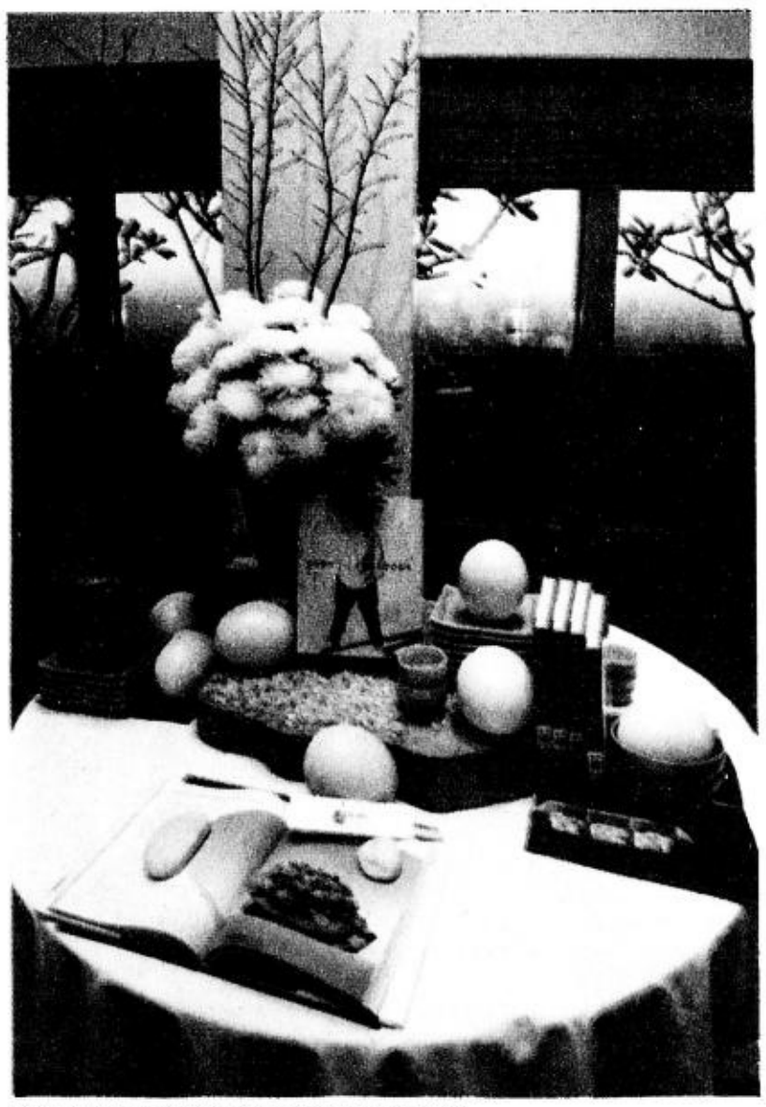
Kitchen works with Nobu

(From page C1)

great pleasure and learning experience to have worked with Ricky at Nobu. "I had heard all those horror stories about chefs who yell and throw pots and pans around, you know the legendary temper sort of thing. I didn't want to be traumatized and I'm thankful that with Ricky it wasn't at all like that," she says.

Ricky and company did not think that the event would snowball into something as large as a two-night benefit dinner for 226 people. "One night, we were all Pinoys in the kitchen at Nobu. After work, all six of us went out like we sometimes do. That evening we thought, hey, what if we all went home and cooked for family and friends?" Ricky recalls that evening in New York where the plan was hatched. Gilbert was the first to come home and told cousin Ricco Ocampo, who liked the idea and talked about it with friends, among them Doris Ho of the Asia Society. Soon enough, the idea for a fund-raising dinner was set into place and Ricky and company buckled down to work. The venue chosen was the Top of the Citi, which is efficiently run by Jessie Sincioco of Le Soufflé fame. "We are really happy with the support they are giving us," Ricky says of Jessie and her staff. Given free rein of the kitchen for two nights plus a huge function room where they could do all their prep work, Ricky and his team set out to do

LE SOUFFLÉ'S Jessie Sincioco gives her staff instructions



ZEN arrangement at entrance to dining area.

TINA Ocampo styles the tables.

YELLOW Tail Tartar with Wasabi Pepper Sauce and Dark Osetra Caviar

magic, creating dishes that the Filipino palate would surely enjoy and remember for a long time.

Getting ready

Before coming home in the middle of December, Ricky had already sourced supplies and gotten donations from his suppliers in New York for the two-night benefit dinner. All in all, he was able to bring in a substantial amount of caviar, foie gras and Kobe beef. A huge chunk of the proceeds will go directly to the Asia Society and Bantay Bata, which Ricky and company don't mind. It is, Ricky says, perhaps their way of giving back for all the blessings that they have received. "We got together a week before to come up with our plans, and did the bulk of the marketing on Jan. 4 and 5. We also determined teams and assignments on that same day," Ricky relates. To help them out in their chores were a group of seven students from the College of St. Benilde's Hotel and Restaurant program—Rafael Velayo, Jonathan Chua, Martin Kabigting, Nino Laus, Camille Porras, Joanne Panugayan and Nikki Enriquez—who could only thank their heavenly stars for being given the chance to work with the highly talented chefs.

"On Jan. 6 we began preparing all our sauces and organized our dry storage, walk-in and freezer. We also defrosted the black cod that day," Ricky continues. "The eighth found us preparing all the vegetables, we cleaned and portioned the Kobe beef and foie gras, portioned the tuna, prepped the Yellowtail Tartar, cleaned and blanched the squid," Ricky adds. It was amazing to see how intricate and how much preparation Ricky and his team put into this dinner. The day before the event found them doing a full tasting for 10 of the wait staff, checking and double-checking everything and searing the tuna. The resulting nine-course menu consisted of Yellow Tail Tartar with Wasabi Pepper Sauce and Dark Osetra Caviar, New Style Sashimi-Tiger Prawns with Yuzi Soy, Seared Tuna Salad with Matsuhisa Dressing, Yamamono Granite, Grilled Kobe Beef with Anticucho Sauce garnished with grilled asparagus and lemon, Black Cod Miso garnished with seared foie gras and Lakyo sauce painted with reduced balsamic, stuffed squid with *tinapa* sushi rice brushed with soy mirin and Wasabi reduction, clear soup with shrimp and mixed mushroom, and finally, flourless Chocolate Cake with white chocolate and shiso sauces served with green tea ice cream. Ricky's main consideration when he designed the menu was that it be composed of Nobu's bestsellers and that every course had a taste distinct from the next one.

Busy but Zen-like

The evening of the dinner itself was Zen-like. From the flowers by Toni Parsons and the table settings created by Tina Ocampo to the black waiters' uniforms designed by Ricco Ocampo, everything in the dining area seemed so placid and serene. Surprisingly, the same could be said of the chef and his team. Ever conscious of the time, taking breaks while sipping his Diet Sprite or San Miguel Light, Ricky was a study of coolness personified. So were Gilbert and Rex who were busy hustling from one side of the room to the other, quickly moving about from the kitchen to the prep area. Pierre, ever light and quick, was grace under pressure. Frank, sweating it out in the kitchen for a bigger part of the evening, kept jolly all throughout. "Let's rock and roll, guys. It's showtime," Ricky, Rex and Gilbert chorused an hour before the main event.

In spite of the pressure, Ricky remained calm and in control. When people would change their mind between courses and decide on a vegetarian dish, Ricky would whip it up almost instantly. Plating the dishes was a particularly fascinating spectacle, seeing how much energy and passion would go into the creation of a particular dish. Jessie Sincioco was on her toes as well, prompting the staff to hurry, orchestrating the efficient flow of plates into the dining area.

Halfway through the dinner, Ricky took a break momentarily and pondered on the evening's events. Quietly observing the event through the glass door, much like a general watching his troops, he smiled and took a deep breath, "It's great to have a good team," he said with a big smile. Stepping from the cool and crisp January evening into the heat of the kitchen, he went back to work.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

BLACK Cod Miso garnished with seared foie gras and lakyo, painted with reduced balsamic

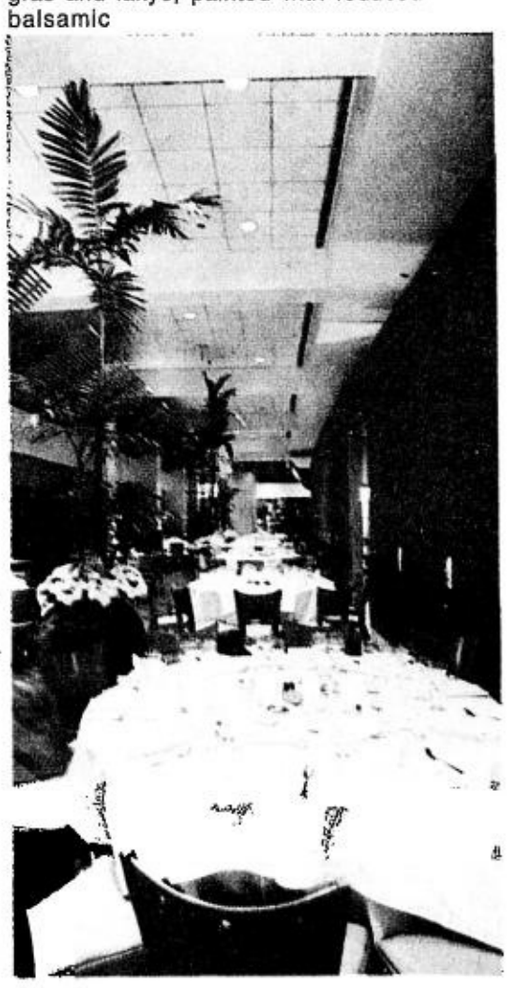
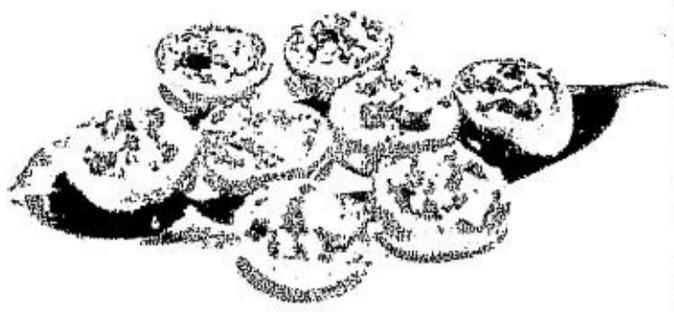


TABLE set up at Top of the Citi.



OVEN-BAKED tomatoes stuffed with chicken *longganisa*, garlic rice with salted egg

Chapel in Taguig dedicated to Our Lady of the Poor

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

FR. Jun says Mass at the Harrison Plaza Chapel

THE DEVOTION to Our Lady of the Poor, patroness of Belgium, began in the Philippines in the '50s when German missionaries belonging to the SVD and the S.Sp.S. brought the first statue here.

The devotion spread with the statue of the Virgin enthroned in the schools of the Sisters of Mary in Sta. Mesa and Tagaytay, in the L'Vieve Restaurant on Otis Street, Paco and, of late, in the Parish of Our Lady of the Poor at the F.B. Tenement on Sampaguita Street, Western Bicutan, Taguig.

Novena was held on Jan. 4-12 at Our Lady of the Poor Parish and will culminate today, Jan. 13.

The first apparition of Our Lady to Mariotte Beco in Banneux, Belgium occurred on Jan. 15, 1933. There were eight apparitions in all with the last happening on March 2, 1933.

The authenticity of the apparitions was recognized by the Bishop of Liege on Aug. 22, 1949. He was Msgr. Louis Joseph Kerkhofs. Pope John Paul II visited her shrine in Banneux in May 1985. Like in all apparitions of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady asked for prayers, penance and sacrifice for the conversion of sinners.

In 1993, Jaime Cardinal Sin dedicated the parish in F.B. Tenement in Taguig to Our Lady of the Poor with Fr. Nicardo Blanquisco as the first parish priest. Mila Dolores, who is a devotee, has a friend, Leni Fernandez-Buccat, who reproduced a foot statue of Our Lady of the Poor for the parish. But there was a need for a bigger statue.

Mila gave Father Nick the address of the shrine in Banneux for more information. On March 3, 1999, a 1.35-meter stone statue was donated by a Belgian couple who came to the Philippines for this purpose. The couple runs a restaurant in Antwerp, Belgium.

Today, the parish priest is Fr. Joselito Jopson. There is also another statue of Our Lady of the Poor in a chapel at the corner of Valley Road and Acacia Road, QC run by the Holy Spirit Sisters.

Papa supports seminary education

IN A RECENT meeting of the officers of the Philippine Association of Papal Awardees (Papa) with their spiritual director, Msgr. Matt Garcia, it was decided that the papal awardees will give financial support to the education of would-be priests in the Archdiocese of Manila and other dioceses to which other papal awardees belong.

At the meeting were Dr. Elpidio Valencia, president; former BIR Commissioner Jose U. Ong, vice president; Tony Adriano, secretary; Rosario Villar, treasurer; and Manuel Gonzales, director.

Some papal awardees are Imelda Ongsiako Cojuangco, Jose Concepcion Jr., Juan Carlos, Conrado Diaz, Eduardo Santiago, Ambassador Enrique Syquia, Isagani Antonio, lawyer Mario Camacho, Artemio Cruz, Ramon Mabanta Jr., Renato Faculdo, Esmeralda Gutierrez, Doña Nena Tambunting, to name a few.

HP chapel has new altar

THE HARRISON Plaza Chapel has a new altar, which has made regular Massgoers very happy. Donated by Belen Ticzon Martel, the chapel has become the perfect place for worship for many people who would fill up the church and the lobby of the second floor during Sunday Masses.

Enthroned in the chapel are the images of Our Lady of Lourdes, Sta. Marta, the Sacred Heart, the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and the Sto. Niño. Ongoing is the nine-day novena of the Sto. Niño at 5:15 p.m. until Jan. 19, which celebrates the feast of the Sto. Niño on Jan. 20. The image of Our Lady of La Leche was added recently.

Many a time would I go to the chapel in the afternoons and say a short prayer and I would be comforted every time.

Thanks to Ms Martel for improving the chapel. It has become a more beautiful place for worship. The Rivera family of Arayat, Pampanga did the altar with the supervision of Norma Cruz.

Mary Consolatrix sisters need help

THE NUNS belonging to the Mary Consolatrix Convent in Angin, Naguilian, La Union need help in repairing the ceiling of the chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.

When it rains, water drips inside the chapel. Let us help by writing to the Mother Superior, Mary Consolatrix Monastery, Angin, Naguilian, La Union 2511. Thank you for your kindness.

Sto. Niño exhibit in Pasig Museum

THE VICARIATE of the Immaculate Conception and the Pasig City Cultural Affairs conclude today the Sto. Niño exhibit at the Pasig City Museum and the nine-day novena.

Msgr. Rodolfo Gallardo, parish priest of Sta. Rosa de Lima and chair of the Sto. Niño Festival in Pasig, said that the highlight of the event is the grand procession of images around the city accompanied by different bands and lyre groups.

Black Nazarene in San Juan

For the past 73 years, the family of Grace Ranjo has been the caretaker of the Black Nazarene in the Capilla ng Nazareno on San Perfecto Street in San Juan. Ongoing are novena Masses until Jan. 18 when the last novena will be said after the 7 a.m. Mass.

The traditional procession will start at 5 p.m. from the *capilla*. It will walk through N. Domingo Street, across the San Juan bridge and SM Centerpoint. People with *panatas* join the procession every year.

St. Expeditus statues available

STATUES of St. Expeditus made of resin are now available at the Guiseppi store in Starmall on Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard.

By the way, an old statue of St. Expeditus is enthroned at the Bacolod Cathedral. Francisco Vecin found the statue when he visited the church during a trip to Bacolod.

'Christ is Passing By'

THE BOOK "Christ is Passing By" is a collection of homilies delivered by Blessed Josemaria Escriva during his lifetime. You can buy it at the Sinagtala nook of National Bookstore. It is a must-read for those who want to rise in spirituality.

When Monsignor Escriva established the Opus Dei in October 1982, it was for the purpose of teaching lay people to sanctify their lives through work and service.

In his homily on St. Joseph, patron saint of workers, Monsignor Escriva said: "Sanctify work and it will sanctify you and others."

'God alone suffices'

IF you feel like your world is breaking into pieces because of financial bankruptcy, breakup with boyfriend, husband, wife or girlfriend; loss of job, loss of house and business, hold onto to your faith, don't give up.

Santa Teresa de Avila summed it up when she said beautifully in Spanish: "*Quien a Dios tiene/ Nada le falta/Solo Dios basta.*"

The complete verse, which I will translate, says: "*Nada te turbe/Nada te espante/Todo se pasa/Dios no se muda/La paciencia todo lo alcanza/Quien a Dios tiene/Nada le falta/Solo Dios basta.*"

English translation: "Let nothing disturb you/Let nothing frighten you/All things are passing/God never changes/Patience overcomes everything/ Whoever possesses God/Lacks nothing/God alone suffices."

If we live by this, there will be less suicides or despair in the world. Going to Mass, frequent communion, fasting, Confession, praying the Rosary every day and visiting the Blessed Sacrament will do the job on your worries, including sickness, according to Robert Lopez Puckett in one of his e-mails to me.

Sto. Niño book to be re-launched

"The Sto. Niño," published by Ben Farrales and the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus, will be re-launched at the Waterfront Hotel on Jan. 16. Cebu's first lady Margot Osmeña, wife of Cebu Mayor Tommy Osmeña, is the guest of honor.

PAPAL Awardees Tony Adriano, Manuel Gonzales, Rosario Villar, Dr. Elpidio Valencia and former BIR Commissioner Jose Ong

Vaseline Amino Collagen Shampoo

FEEL the GLOW of GRADUATION

CAPTURE THAT SPECIAL GRADUATION MOMENT AND GET TO WIN PRIZES FOR YOUR SCHOOL

FEEL THE GLOW OF GRADUATION is a pack collection contest among elementary schools that will reward the winners with a generous Graduation Package that is composed of free graduation photographs to all the graduating students, a special Vaseline award for a selected graduate and a prize showcase for the school.

WHO MAY JOIN:
The contest is open to all public and private elementary schools nationwide.

HOW TO JOIN:

1. The country will be divided into five (5) regional groupings as follows:
   - Group 1 National Capital Region (NCR)
   - Group 2 Northern & Central Luzon (Regions I, II, III & CAR)
   - Group 3 Southern Luzon (Regions IV & V)
   - Group 4 Visayas (Regions VI, VII & VIII)
   - Group 5 Mindanao (Regions IX, X, XI, XII, Caraga & ARMM)
2. The schools will automatically be members of the regional grouping where their campus is located.
3. Entry forms may be secured from any of the Unilever distributors assigned to their respective regional groupings:

NCR: Isabel N. Jurao 11451 Mendoza St. Otis, Paco Manila 564-9470 / 564-6811 / 0917-4495373 • **Cecille de Guzman** 9187 Catmon St, San Antonio Village, Makati City 895-5126 / 899-8854 / 890-0364 (0919) 873-5771•

NORTH & CENTRAL LUZON: Lyngdon L. Dayrit Tin-Tin Compound, Nancayasan, Urdaneta, Pangasinan (075) 568-2358 / (0917) 995-2608 • **Eric Amolacion** (075) 568-2358 / (075) 568-5005 • **Louie A. Mabanta** Maharlika Hi-way, Batal, Santiago City (078) 682-2394 (0917) 962-0940 • **Bryan Q. Alcid** Bgy 50 Buttong, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte (077) 771-6521 (0917) 494-7021 • **Liza Pre** (077)772-0826 • **Raquel A. Lenon** 81 Almendras St. Pilar Village, San Fernando, Pampanga (045) 961-4050 / (045) 961-4882 / (0917) 434-0734 • **Agnes Sicat** (045) 961-4050 / (045) 961-4882

SOUTH LUZON: Rosa Fernandez A-Mercado Village, Pulong Sta Cruz, Sta Rosa, Laguna (049) 837-6510 / (0917) 378-2466 • **Jane Reyes** Pres Laurel Highway Bgy Balintawak, Lipa City (at the back of AMA School) (043) 757-0657 / (0917) 504-1996 • Isabel Talledo c/o Bona Lumber Compound Manalo Ext, Puerto Princesa Palawan 5300 (048) 434-4530 • **Allah Reginaldo** c/o Lucena Mfg Co. Bgy Cotta, Lucena City (042) 660-3166 (0917) 918-8237 • **Jaquilyn K. Tan** PLDC Bldg. Diversion Rd. Triangulo, Naga City (054) 473-2205 (0917) 388-9249 • **Raquel** (054) 473-2205 • **Julie** (054) 473-2205 • **Annie O. Alaba** Gloria Baldo Compound Tagas Rd, Tagas, Daraga, Albay (052) 483-239 • **Rosele David** (043) 286-7191 / (0918) 909-8373

VISAYAS: Jane M. Osano Bgy. Hibao-an Norte, Mandurriao, Iloilo City (033) 321-0861 / (0917) 250-1875 • **Donnie M. Montelijao** Dr 1 HVG Whse Singkang-Araneta, Bacolod City (034) 433-707 / (0917) 374-5483 • **Nestle** (034) 433-7072 • **Paul** (034) 433-7072 • Rey Vincent V. Franco Dr. E. Miciano Ave. Dumaguete City (035) 225-4753 / (0915) 302-0404 • **Frederick Mirafior** (035) 225-4753 • **Jeaniver G. Andales** #3 Cebu Kenwood Trading Subangdaku, Mandawe City (032) 422-6187 / (0917) 549-7163 • **Neneng Derequito** Infront of Naugan Elem. School Brgy. Naungan, Ormoc City Leyte (053) 255-3827 / (0917) 604-8964 • **Allan** (053) 255-3827

MINDANAO: Mr. Cecil B. Saminiatrado Igpit, Opol, Misamis Oriental (08822) 735-699 / (08822) 735-474 /(0917) 449-3298 • **Richard J. Allazas** Lim Bros. Bldg. Veterans Ext. Tumaga Rd. Zam. City (062) 991-4818 / (062) 993-0649 / (0917) 950-9349 • **Santos C. Dino** Former Eaga Bldg. R. Castillo St. Agdao, Davao City (082) 234-7561 / (0916) 301-7036 • **Ian** (0919) 393-3389 • **Victor V. Tablingon Jr.** Leon Lido St. Lagdao Gen. Santos City (083) 552-7416 / (083) 553-2380 (0917) 434-4747 • **Jun Velasco** 118 Brgy. Balindog, Kidapawan, North Cotabato (064) 288-1621 (0917) 407-7955 • **Melody** (0917) 617-7161

4. The entry form shall be duly accomplished by the school principal/officer-in-charge and submitted to the Unilever distributor nearest to their campus.
5. The deadline of submission of entry forms is on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2002.**

WHAT TO DO:

1. As soon as the entry form has been submitted, the participating school may begin collecting as many empty bottles and/or sachets of Vaseline Amino Collagen Shampoo as possible. The more bottles and/or sachets collected, the greater the chances of winning.
2. Vaseline Amino Collagen Shampoo bottles and sachets will be assigned the following corresponding points:
   Sachet 1 point — 200ml bottle 30 points
   100ml bottle 15 points
3. Each participating school should be able to accumulate **a minimum of 2,500 points.**
4. The **TOP TEN (10) SCHOOLS PER REGIONAL GROUPING** that are able to accumulate the most number of points shall automatically be the winners of the contest and shall be the recipients of the Graduation Package.
5. The **NEXT TEN (10) SCHOOLS PER REGIONAL GROUPING** (11th to 20th placers) however shall be receiving consolation prizes.
6. In case of a tie for the 10th or 20th place respectively, the school with the most number of 200ml bottles shall win. Thereafter, if the tie is still not yet broken, the school with the most number of 100ml bottles shall be selected.
7. The deadline of collection of the empty bottles and sachets will be on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2002.**
8. Unilever and Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) representatives will visit all participating schools on the above stated date and supervise the tallying of all Vaseline Amino Collagen Shampoo bottles and sachets submitted. This will be done in the presence of the principal/officer-in-charge or their official representatives.
9. The tallying of the bottles and sachets will start exactly at 12 noon. No bottles and sachets will be accepted after then.
10. Unilever representatives shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all tallied bottles and sachets.

GRADUATION PACKAGE:
All ten winning schools per region (a total of 50 schools nationwide) will receive a Graduation Package consisting of the following:

1. Free Graduation Photographs
a. An 8" x 10" colored photograph with frame will be given to each of the graduating students for free. (negatives included).
b. Each graduate will be given the option to obtain either an individual portrait or a family portrait.

2. Vaseline Shampoo Most Outstanding Graduate Award
a. In each of the winning schools, there shall be a recipient of the Vaseline Shampoo Most Outstanding Graduate Award.
b. Only the top three (3) graduating honor students of the winning schools shall be nominated for this award.
c. The members of the graduating class shall cast votes to determine the recipient of the award with the cooperation of the organizers and school administrators.
d. The graduating class should cast their votes to determine the winner of the award based on the following criteria:
   i. The student who has exemplary conduct, serving as a role model to the whole student body.
   ii. The student who has leadership skills and the ability to motivate a group in academic and extra- curricular activities.
   iii. The student who has displayed utmost dedication and involvement in community service.
e. All recipients of the Vaseline Shampoo Most Outstanding Graduate Award shall receive a plaque of recognition.
f. The mothers of the awardees shall receive a special acknowledgement during their son's / daughter's graduation ceremony and a cash prize worth **Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000).**

3. Vaseline Prize Showcase
a. A Prize Showcase worth around **Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000)** will be awarded to the winning schools.
b. The school can choose one (1) among the following list of prize showcases:
   i. Vaseline Sports Showcase – basketball rings and basketballs
   ii. Vaseline IT Showcase – computer
   iii. Vaseline Music Showcase – electronic keyboard and guitar
   iv. Vaseline Library Showcase – a set of encyclopedia

OTHER MATTERS:
Each of the participating schools shall grant Unilever Philippines, Inc. and/or any of its assignees the right to use any and all still photographs and video footage taken during any activity in relation to Feel the Glow of Graduation for any television, cable tv and radio or print promotional communication; merchandising effort or as a program material for the annual event including any similar or related activity staged by Unilever Philippines and/or its assignees. Each participant shall further authorize Unilever Philippines and/or its assignees to use their names, essays, photographs and video footage for any and all publicity promotions, advertising and exhibition purposes of Feel the Glow of Graduation. Participants of the program shall further agree to waive any and all charges in relation to the mechanical rights, public performance and television including cable tv rights of the said footages.

Per DOH - BFAD Permit No. 0028 S. 2002

GMA

Congratulations! Your wish has been granted.

Nestlé NIDO 1+

A Mother's Wish RAFFLE

2nd Preliminary Draw

WINNERS OF ₱100,000

Marilyn Armas - Pasay City
Estrelita dela Cruz - Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Mildred Nacu - Baliuag, Bulacan
Erlinda Rivera - Dasmariñas, Cavite
Jason Carlo Carranceja - Camarines Norte
Leonora Torregosa - Getafe, Bohol
Donabel Natividad - Bacolod City
Angeline de Guzman - Lagonglong, Misamis Oriental
Marcilo Tadlip - Matina, Davao City

WINNERS OF ₱50,000

Nora Galecan - Pag-asa, Quezon City
Myrna Ramos - Lingayen, Pangasinan
Ma. Fatima Barera - Angeles City
Carolyn Malonga - Calamba, Laguna
Luningning Tacturan - San Juan, Iriga City
Madelyn Laput - Tulay Minglavilla, Cebu
Eva Lacson - Sum-ag, Bacolod
Marlon Laganga - Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte
Tedfreda Dollaga - Gen. Santos City

WINNERS OF ₱20,000

Frances Bumanlag - Cainta, Rizal
Ma. Theresa Parayno - Calasiao, Pangasinan
Marissa Vergel - Talugtog, Nueva Ecija
Agnes Acedillo - San Pedro, Laguna
Nora Albis - Bula, Camarines Sur
Anna Liza Ovilla - Lilo-an, S. Leyte
Ma. Yvette Recomono - Po. Badiangan, Iloilo City
Rose Ann Samaco - San Juan, Surigao City
Mary Jane Medel-Esperat - Cotabato City

WINNERS OF ₱5,000

METRO MANILA

Marivic Tagaro - Cainta, Rizal
Edna Justan - Sto. Niño,Taguig
Elizabeth Quinal - Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan City
Annie Escusa - Cubao, Quezon City
Peñafrancia Cabute - Upper Bicutan, Taguig
Evelyn Raposon - Hulo, Mandaluyong City
Editha Aculud-ud - Parañaque City
Dominga Tabag Barit - T. Sora, Quezon City
Rowena Pamela Perez - Parañaque City
Vanessa Gabinete - Las Piñas City

NORTH LUZON

Arlyn Mendoza - San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Jane Cagaoan - Lingayen, Pangasinan
Maritess Villanueva - Lingayen, Pangasinan
MaryJane Arrieta - Binmaley, Pangasinan
Cora Afidchao - Cumimao, Ilocos Norte
Meding Dabo - Cauayan City, Isabela
Ricky Visperas - Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Jolly Pugong - Irisan, Baguio City
Michael Zarzuela - Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Natalia Aspillaga - Agoo, La Union

CENTRAL LUZON

Esperanza Cortez - Mexico, Pampanga
Josephine Bongbonga - Vijandre Dist., Cabanatuan City
Cristina Gorospe - Talavera, Nueva Ecija
Daisy Conde - Mabalacat, Pampanga
Editha Quiambao - Sto. Tomas, Pampanga
Rowena Manalo - Mabalacat, Pampanga
Vilma Emblen - Aliaga, Nueva Ecija
Stephanie Theresa Galang - Malolos, Bulacan
Alpha de Ocampo - Rizal, Nueva Ecija
Nancy Esguerra - San Fernando, Pampanga

SOUTH LUZON 1

Arlene Quiohilag - Malvar, Batangas
Leah Torrente - Biñan, Laguna
Luz Rodriguez - Biñan, Laguna
Marilyn Pabalan - Biñan, Laguna
Eloisa Romero - San Pedro, Laguna
Jennifer Lim Encinas - Puerto Princesa City
Cecille delos Santos - Imus, Cavite
May Lanie Molina - Bacoor, Cavite
Eliza Dumalogdog - Tanza, Cavite
Mylene Ojano - Bacoor, Cavite

SOUTH LUZON 2

Jenny Fermo - Daet, Camarines Norte
Maribel Falla - Candelaria, Quezon
Eden Acuña - Benot, Legaspi City
Corazon Camata - Camp Nakar, Lucena City
Mary Grace Alcantara - Mayao, Lucena City
Teresa Delacion - Gulang-gulang, Lucena City
Susana Hernandez - Naga City
Lourdes Sarmiento - Camarines Sur
Rowena de Leon - Irosin, Sorsogon
Ruby Serrado - Canaman, Camarines Sur

EAST VISAYAS

Asuncion Visbal - Tacloban City
Edgardo Lumagbas - Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Hilario Dacurawat - Tacloban City
Delia Colon - Pob. Isabel, Leyte
Marian Cacayan - Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Ma. Ana Ajoc - Pob. Norte Batuan, Bohol
Helen Zamora - Talisay City, Cebu
Fe Celecios - San Jorge, Western Samar
Ma. Lelani Crevillo - Tubigon, Bohol
Anecita Nillare - Tagbilaran City, Bohol

WEST VISAYAS

Stella Elaine Godinez - Dumaguete City
Cecilia Herradura - Tanza, I.C.
Bernardo Alimon - Lacson, Bacolod City
Ma. Bernie Belleza - Negros Occidental
Gina Villanueva - Handumanan, Bacolod City
Majella Sevilla - Molo, Iloilo City
Marites Abeto - Bacolod City
Elda Villavicencio - Oton, Iloilo City
Mangarit Aleoria - Manduriao, Iloilo City
Lezel del Rosario - Oton, Iloilo City

NORTH MINDANAO

Lourdes Bagtong - Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro
Karen Espinosa - Opol, Misamis Oriental
Cherwyn Hinaloc - Patag, Cagayan de Oro
Lucita Tabamo - Opol, Misamis Oriental
Mariza Gica - Carmen, Cagayan de Oro
Gorgie Tan - Cugman, Cagayan de Oro
Charita Tupac - Bagong Silang, Iligan City
Ella Espinola - Osmena Ext., Cagayan de Oro
Junnette Sullano - Tablon, Cagayan de Oro
Vicente Espina - Tubod, Iligan City

SOUTH MINDANAO

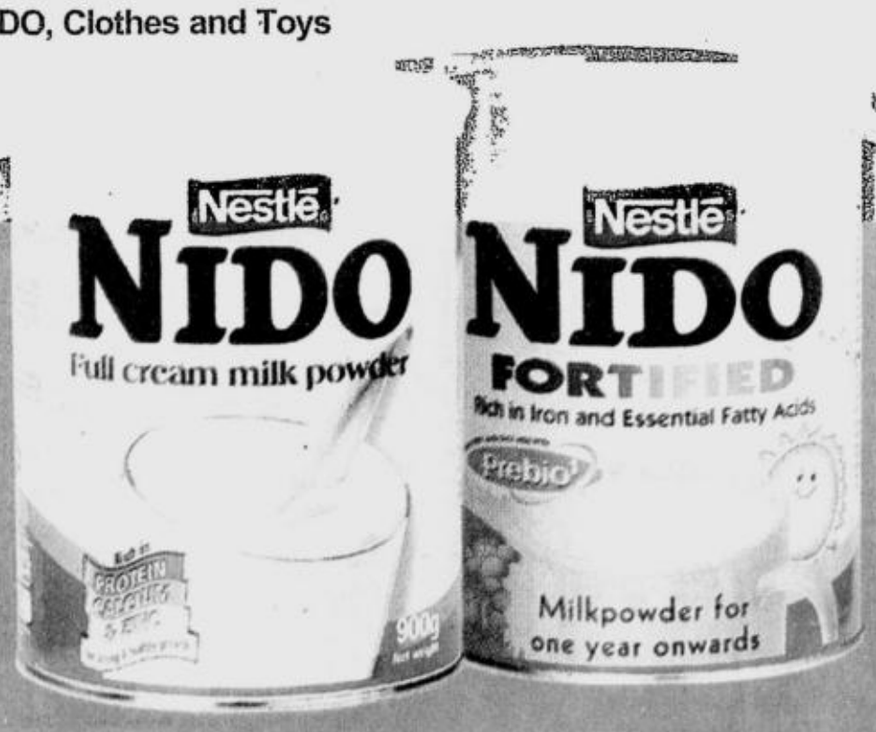
Paz Dorotan - Catalunan Grande, Davao City
Nora Bale - Zamboanga City
Cheryl Baldric - Bajada, Davao City
Leonora Castro - Gen. Santos City
Leny Remulta - Davao City
Nida Dapiton - Dumoy Toril, Davao City
Perusa Mapayo - Bangkal, Davao City
Arlene Baterbonia - Dolomolor, South Cotabato
Imelda Gonzaga - Davao City
Flordeliza Anorada - Bacaca, Davao City

YOU CAN STILL WIN A ₱2 MILLION PRIZE PACKAGE FOR YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE!

Inclusive of a ₱1 million Bank Account, High School and College Education Plans, Health Insurance, 3-year supply of NIDO, Clothes and Toys

HOW TO JOIN

- Write your name, address, phone number, and signature PLUS A CHILD'S NAME and BIRTHDAY on NIDO box tops or labels.
- Drop your entries in drop boxes at groceries and supermarkets.
- Grand Draw is on February 2, 2002.

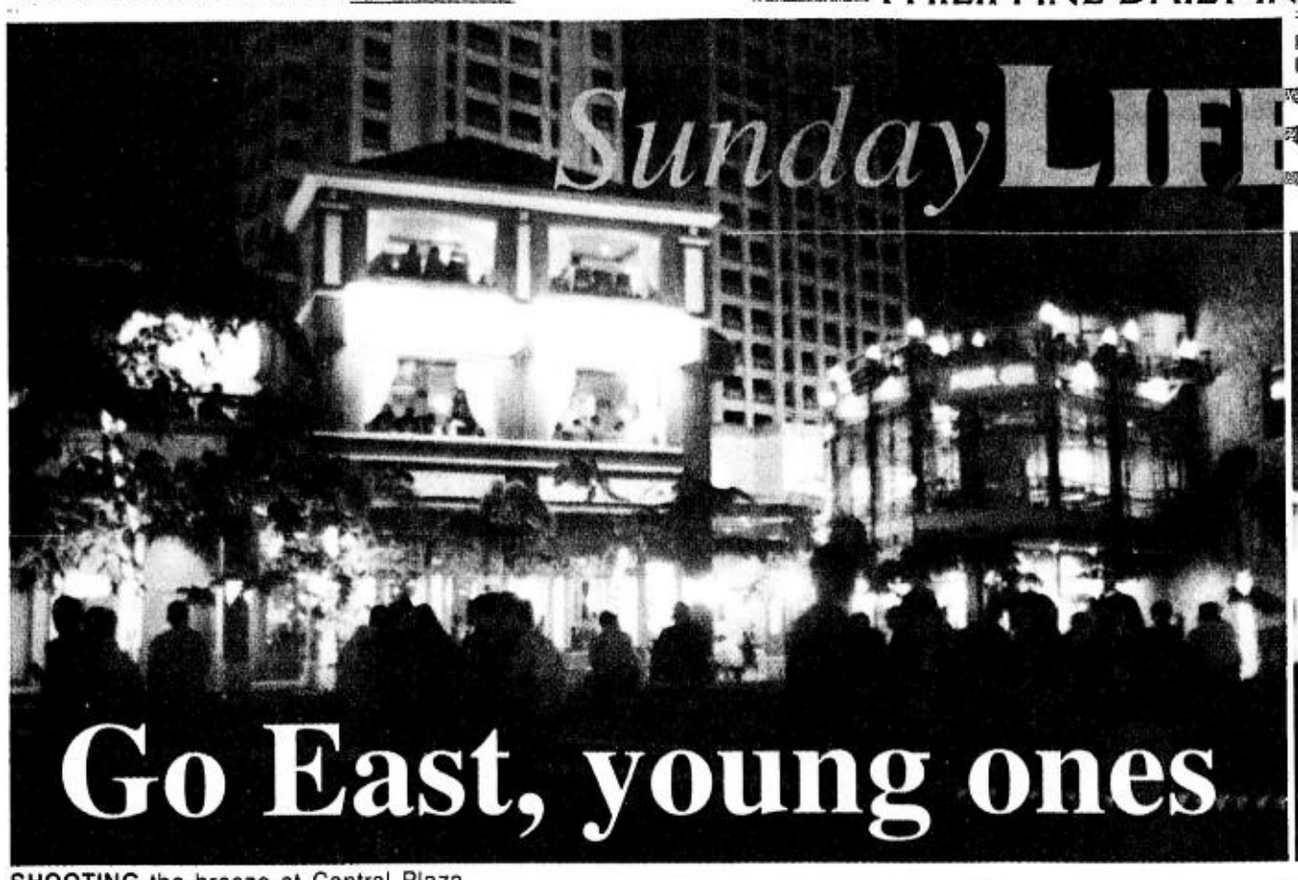


OVER ₱14 MILLION IN PRIZES! SEND YOUR ENTRIES NOW AND WATCH THE GRAND DRAW ON FEBRUARY 2.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0791 series of 2001

FOR FEEDBACK, TEXT US AT (0919) 661-2337 OR EMAIL US AT LIFESTYLE@INQUIRER.COM.PH

Sunday LIFESTYLE



Go East, young ones

SHOOTING the breeze at Central Plaza

CHILLING out outside JacR's Loft and soon to open Big Kahuna.

TEXT BY TIM YAP
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

SO what makes a nocturnal venue hip? Is it the hype generated by its perceived hot-spot status? Or is it the people seen hanging around its halls, with martini on one hand and cigarette on the other? Maybe all of the above. Maybe none of the above.

Enter Eastwood City Walk. Of late, this has been one of the favorite after-dinner topics when the buzz gears toward "Have you been to...?"

"It's really nice!" said a friend, who had been out there on a first date with a fresh-faced hottie.

Situated at the front tip of the Libis strip (from the Ortigas side), you turn right when you see that giant glass building of Citibank (okay, as if you guys do not know how to get there). Once there, a five-story tower with a big sign—"Eastwood City Walk"—greets you with a cheeriness that recalls summer camp, lean and wholesome, with a lot of choices for fun and frolic.

I purposely decided to go past 11 p.m. *(See related story on D2)*. Other people may like looking at other people's homes, toilets and other personal home stuff; I dig the nightlife establishments—they say a lot about the night youth culture of a particular area.

Virgin in the city

In this case, I was welcomed to the City Walk by Eastwood's charming quartet of "food-and-fun-meisters"—John Natividad as leader of the brat pack composed of Charlene Nocom of communications, and their events duo of Eli Navarro and Karlo Saga. They embodied the market of young and vibrant twenty- to thirtysomethings who are not jaded and who just want to have a good time with some great company.

It felt fresh being a "virgin" at Eastwood City. None of that "feeling superior" stuffy look that one gets elsewhere. "People here are very low key," said Natividad. To my far right, I saw a couple of college buddies taking their sweet time with their beer bottles and dates (not necessarily in that order). My far left had actors from Repertory Philippines chilling out after a gala performance of "God's Favorite."

Nothing beats a breezy stroll along al fresco establishments with a variety that will make you think of Los Angeles' Universal City Walk (which, according to John, was an inspiration). It really pays to have intelligent lighting, too.

Yes, Eastwood City does have good street lighting. Flattering, to say the least. You won't have to get your pocket flashlight to be able to spot your date. So what if the most happening bar is playing "Let the Joy Rise?" over and over again? (I'll give up if I hear "Celebration.") And who cares if the neighborhood sports bar has a bad sound system? Everything adds to its charm. "It feels like a down-to-earth Rockwell," opined an observer.

Walk with Yap

And this is not even mentioning the obvious. From its wide open spaces, parking slots, outdoor theater and fountain to other manmade theme park type attractions that make you forget the hoi polloi of C-5 seizures, Eastwood City Walk pulsates with colors at night.

Midnight, I did the "walk" with the Eastwood quartet as we hopped from one hip spot to the other. We started with uppers (okay, appetizers for the more sober) at House of Mao, Jay and Vladimir Roces' latest dish which serves to please your thirst for the Chinois—Wong Kar Wai, eat your heart out! I absolutely loved the spicy popcorn shrimps! We also had a couple of start up drinks before we proceeded to the next stops.

We were sandwiched by two hot City spots, Bargo Sports Bar and the ribs place Chicago Roadhouse. Billiards was the name of the butch game at the tri-leveled Bargo, so I hopped into Amoeba, Lander and Regine Tolentino-Vera Perez's latest baby of a bar and CD exchange center, the first in the country. You can swap anything and everything musical (except partners) at this joint.

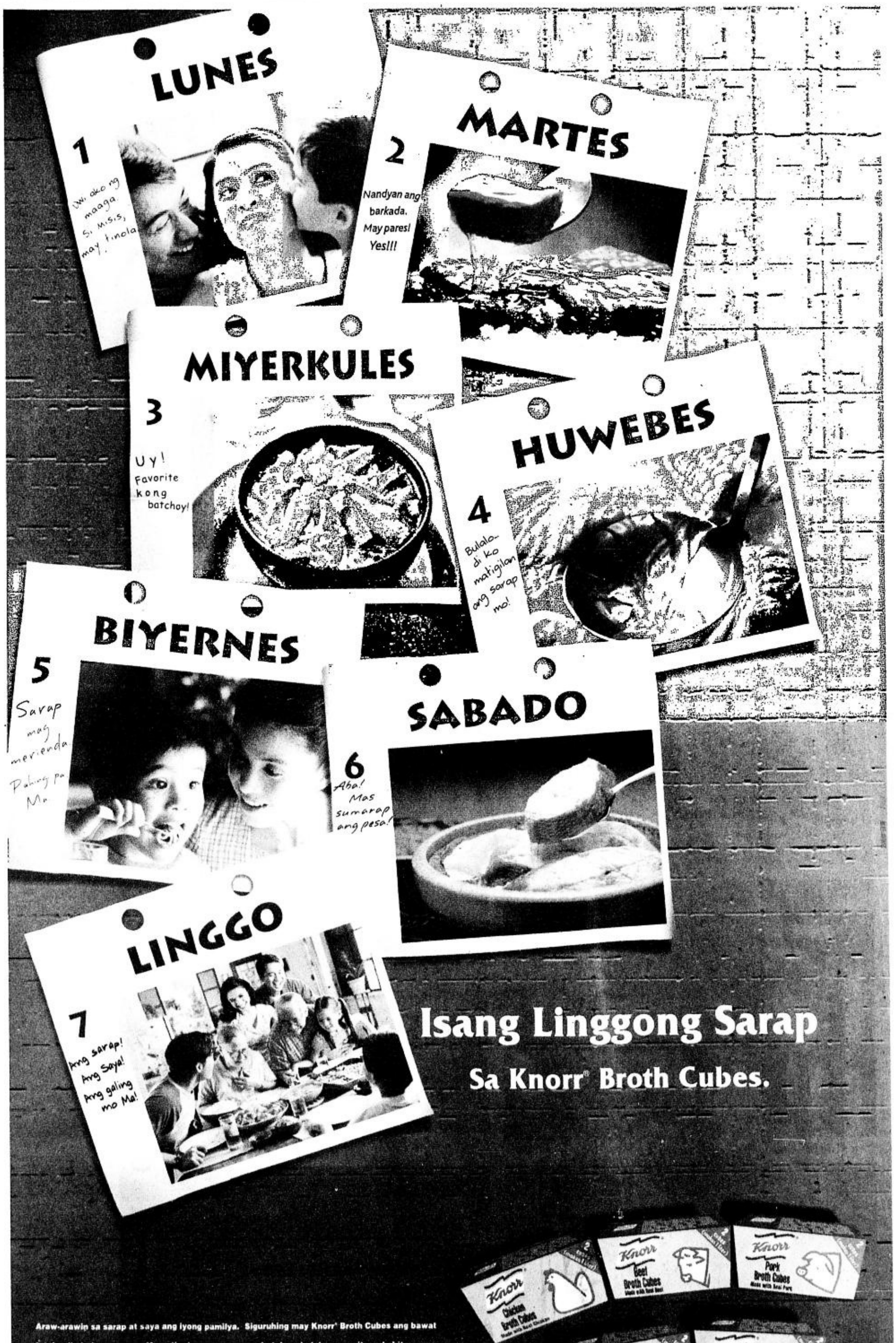
Downstairs they have Volyum Café, which offers a twisted version of cocktails—served in ice cube trays or ice candy form. "Oddly delightful" was how someone put it. El Botin, on the other hand, with its antique-looking interiors, is popular for *paella* and some caviar-based dishes. Thelina Nuval's Celadon is a feast for Oriental senses.

Sinful seduction

The next bar was Ipanema, a Brazilian-beat-slash-jazz venue that takes the modernist art deco ambience to greater heights with its mix of food and fun. My favorite was Jack's Loft, owned by very young and enterprising Eastwood's man of the moment, Eric Cua, who designed this venue by himself with classy Asian touches fused with animal print and postmodernist interiors.

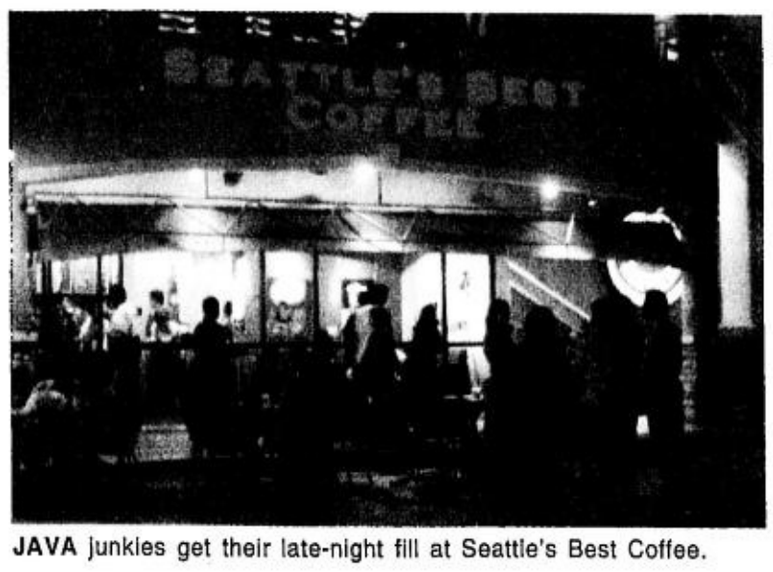
"Everybody frequents bars where people cannot hear each other. Jack's Loft is a dessert bar where one can chill—we take pride in our cheesecakes, too, among others," beamed Eric. And, after a few spoons

GO/ p.D2



FULL HOUSE. Twist by Minggoy's

BIRD paradise artworks at El Botin



JAVA junkies get their late-night fill at Seattle's Best Coffee.

PARTY every night around Fuente Circle.

Go East, young ones

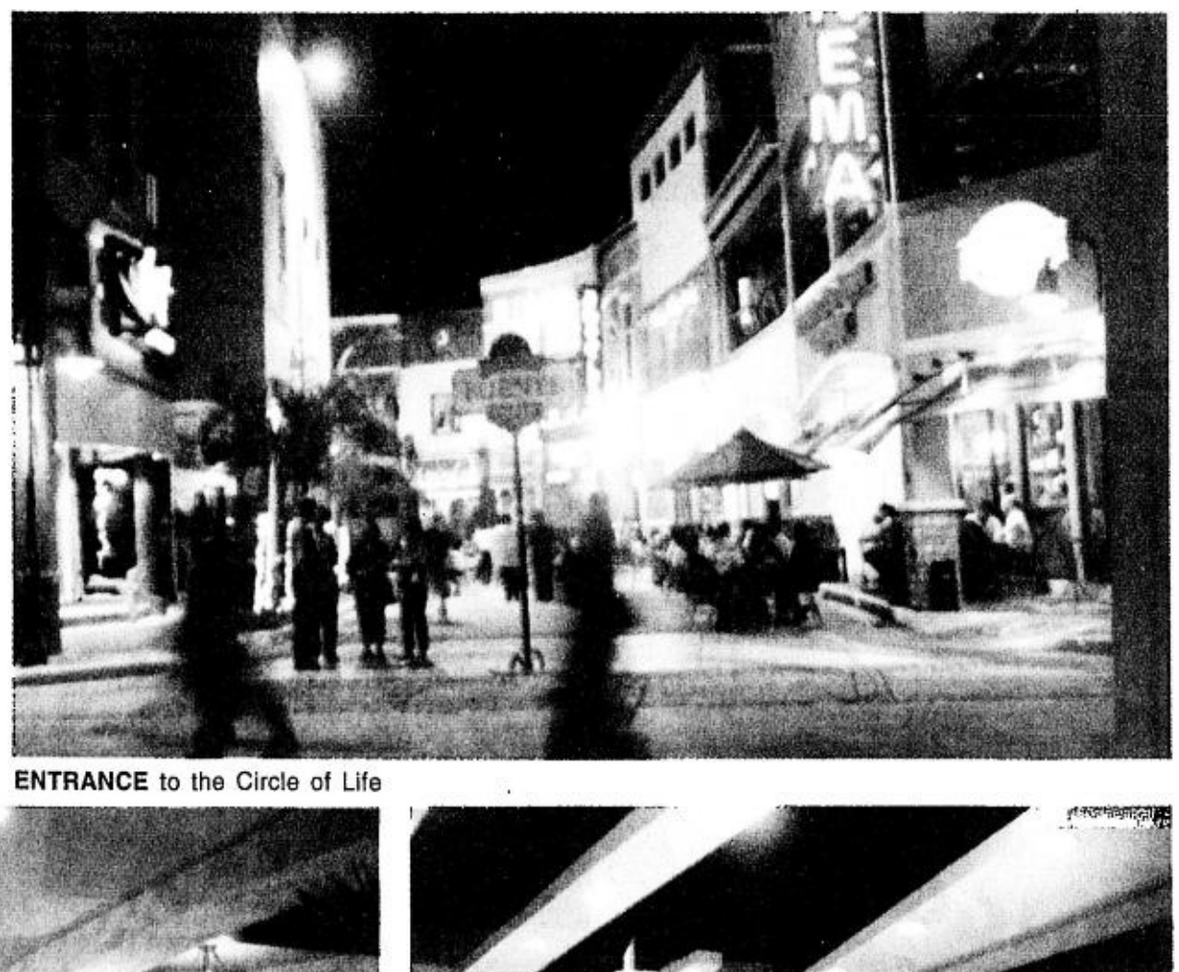
((From page D1)

of that sinful seduction, with sips of blackcurrant tea, we found ourselves musing on the meaning of life and other generation queries. It had *that* kind of effect, I'm not joking.

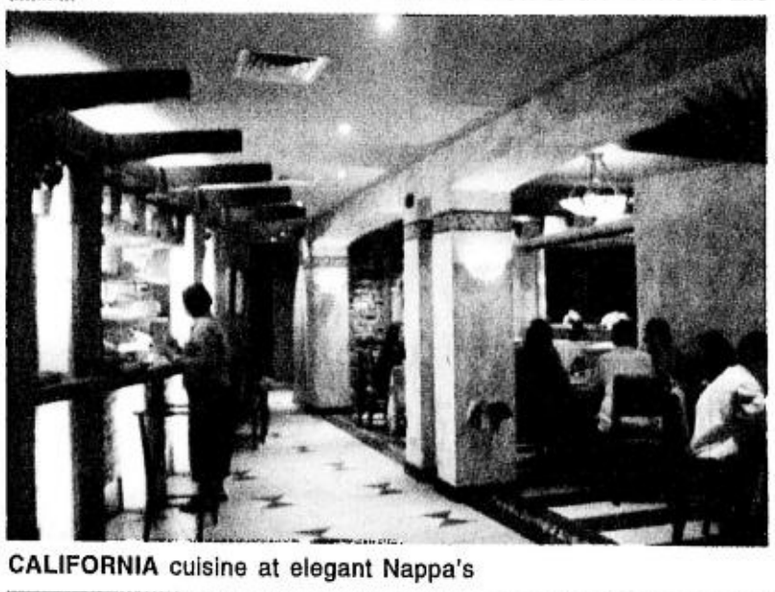
I've heard Eric is converting his basement into a dance club, and part of his second floor into an oxygen bar. Hmmm, dance downstairs, then when you feel you have gone overboard, go straight up—makes sense, huh?

Still high from the loft, we jumped to Blue Onion, Chito Angliongto's Eastwood haunt. At close to 2 a.m., partyphiles were on the "anthem" dancing mood at this bar that had a stage in the middle and a lot of chairs and tables, plus the ubiquitous DJ's booth, of course. After all that, we continued with our walk, and when we reached Country Waffles, like a regular night cycle, I knew it was time to say goodbye.

"So what's hot here at this time of the night?" I asked the fantastic four, still keeping up with my Energizer bunny impulses. "Seattle's Best—the coffee is hot, very hot," they, like nocturnal boy and girl scouts, answered in unison.



ENTRANCE to the Circle of Life



CALIFORNIA cuisine at elegant Nappa's

BIBLIOPHILE's haven Bibliarch

TRULY EAST. Affordable Japanese food at Tokyo Tokyo

CONVENIENCE shopping at Robinsons Choice

This city will make your day

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

Eastwood City Walk serves entertainment and dinner on a silver platter, with lots of refill

THERE'S a street party every night of the week at this newest dining and party hub east of the busy C-5 strip, deep in the area that has always been known as Libis. An array of restaurants to fit all kinds of budget, parking for over a thousand cars and a lush streetscape—where you can dine under the stars or stroll with your loved ones—are what attract people from all over the metro to Eastwood City Walk, an entertainment and dining hub which was developed by Megaworld Corporation two years ago.

Eastwood City Walk's roads are embellished with a beautiful pattern of marble and granite. Palm trees dot the walk; the cascading waters of the fountain make walking truly a relaxing experience. John Natividad, Eastwood Citywalk's vice president for marketing, says, "everyone coexists peacefully here." By this he perhaps refers to the mix of people you can find on any given morning or evening shooting the breeze or sitting down to a meal at the many restaurants and bars that have sprouted in Eastwood City.

Matrons on a night out with the girls; young families strolling at the Central Plaza where a reflective pool bubbles up into little fountains; young couples out on the balcony taking in the view; professionals unwinding; and even actors and actresses out for a nightcap after a day's shoot—these sights will greet you at Eastwood.

A quick, healthy stroll through the City Walk should give you an idea where to take your family, date, or *barkada* to dine.

Stroll

Begin your stroll at the main entrance where you will find the first cluster of restaurants and the viewing tower, which affords a commanding view of Eastwood City and its environs. Whet your appetite by climbing to the top of this five-story tower and take in the magnificent view while pondering where to go. Close to the tower is Delifrance (P150/head average meal cost), an authentic French café-bakery. Right next to it is the ever-popular Tokyo Tokyo which serves fast, fresh and fun Japanese food that won't put a dent on your wallet (P150/head average meal cost).

Stroll down a few steps and select from a trio of restaurants. Macau Restaurant, as its name suggests, serves authentic Macanese cuisine in a Pinoy setting. Specialties here are fried baby pigeons, special baked rice and curries. The Macau fried rice is a winner. Lunch or dinner here will set you off by approximately P200/head. Right next to it is Subway for large and healthy sandwiches and next to it is the Mongolian Feast Buffet and Grille where you can either head for the eat-all-you-can buffet or order à la carte from an Asian menu (average P250-P300/person).

Cross the street and walk a few steps to find the next cluster of restaurants and Bibliarch, which touts itself as the "hippest" bookstore in town, which may be so considering it is frequented by artists and designers. Right next to Bibliarch is Café Via Mare and Oyster Bar.

You can never go wrong with Via Mare, which is by now an institution. Oyster Espagnole with choice cuts of sofrito or Oyster Rockefeller? Both are big hits. If oysters are not your thing, you may help yourself to the salads, soups, entrées and Filipino dishes to choose from. Family dining is a great experience at the Café Via Mare. Be prepared to shell out an average of P300-P400/head and double that if you opt for fine dining at the Oyster Bar.

If that's too pricey, go next door to one of the prettier McDonald's outlets in the country and let the kids loose there. With a happy meal and a toy, they'll be content for hours. Now, if it's breakfast food you fancy, walk a few meters to the biggest outlet of Country Waffles and get some hearty American breakfast food. They also have a large play area for young children so that mom and dad can eat in peace. Dining here will set you off by around P600-P800 for a family of four with two young children. Very close by is Mystic Grill which serves tasty grilled dishes—succulent, lean meats with wholesome vegetable sidings and, best of all, zero MSG. There is a rooftop where you can go al fresco dining with your date. The bill: an average of P300 per head.

Speaking of date places, one of the prettiest dining places with food that is to die for is the Nappa Bistro and Bar. It packs a full house every night. Excellent California cuisine is served here—the Oven Roasted Sea Bass will make your knees wobbly instantly. Throw in a bottle of wine for an evening that is, well, a bit pricey but memorable. While the interiors are lovely, don't forget to take a look at Nappa's exteriors on an evening stroll—quite pretty and magical.

Seafood

Cross over to the Central Plaza and you will find Vietnamese cuisine at Pho Hoa restaurant where the Seafood Pho is a personal favorite. Dining here is filling and reasonable at an average of P250 per person. Go next door to Jack's Loft for some diet-busting dessert. Now, if it's pasta you want at very reasonable prices, hop over to Fazoli's and shell out an average of P150 per head for a meal that is guaranteed to stuff you. Next door is a Seattle's Best Coffee for a quick java fix.

A few meters away is Fuente Circle where the serious partying takes place *(see Tim Yap's story)*. This is where you'll find Mama Rosa, where they serve honest-to-goodness, mouth-watering Filipino cuisine. Pasta dishes here bear a distinctly Pinoy character, as in Pasta with Longganisang Lucban. Prices are reasonable (average of P300-P400 for a group meal).

If you fancy dimsum, there's a West Lake dimsum and deli right next to Mama Rosa where you can have a fill of Hongkong-style dimsum, Cantonese fried rice and rice toppings. This place is a big hit among Eastwood's young professionals. Lunch or dinner can be had at P150-P200/head. Just around the corner is Twist of Minggoy's, an all-time personal favorite where great Spanish cuisine is served at unbelievably affordable prices. Their *paella*, *salpicao* and *lengua* are unforgettable. With one of the best interiors among Eastwood City's restaurants, it is also constantly packed throughout the day. On the average, a meal can cost P500 per person. Asian cuisine? Celadon, right next door to Twist serves great dishes from the Orient in a cool, quiet, distinctly Asian ambiance. Average cost of a meal with soup or appetizer is P300 per person.

Nights when you feel like whipping up a home-cooked meal, take a quick stroll through the vast parking lot and go over to Robinsons Choice to pick up some supplies. A medium-sized market, Robinsons Choice is designed to cater to the condo unit owners at Eastwood City, housewives from the neighboring villages and professionals.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.net.ph

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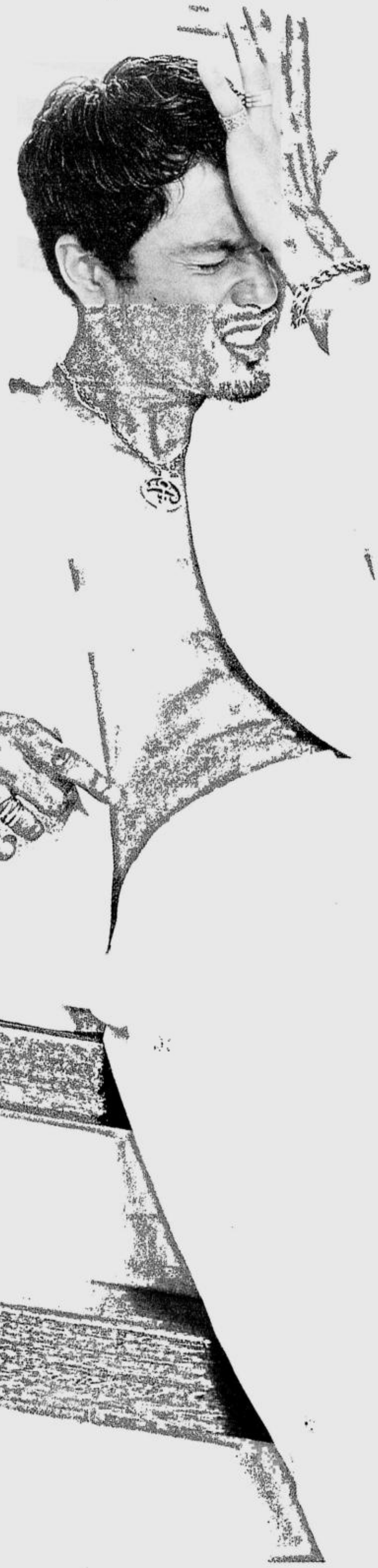

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Location: TBWA\Santiago Mangada Puno Warehouse Photography: Raymund Isaac

WHITE HEAT IS ON!

WHITE HAS WEAVED ITSELF THROUGH ALL MILIEU FROM RELIGION, PHILOSOPHIES, POETRY AND JUST ABOUT EVERY HUMAN ENDEAVOR. AND THIS IS NO WHITE LIE.

Oxygen's inspiration for this month is the classic conundrum called white. The color or the absence of it, white is a wealth of contrasts- innocent yet transcendent, pure yet potent.

Combining crisp, clean whites with black contrasts and raw, unfinished edges is Oxygen's White Heat collection. Though the line is mostly in black and white, there are explorations in red accents and a few tone on tone tacks. Slogans in metallic print effects provoke and further attitudinize the series.

White heat comprise of clam diggers, polo shirts and jackets for men, mock turtlenecks and hot pants for fender benders, classic tees and straight cuts. As the adage goes, you'll never go wrong with white...Oxygen's White Heat, that is.

WHITE LIGHTS:

• White is probably one of the most respected and well received of colors.

• In dreams, white symbolizes hope, faith, purity, perfection, confidence and enlightenment. When mixed or associated with other colors, it purifies and refines the meaning of that color. Alone, white can indicate a proud, rigid, judgmental immaturity – a "should be" controlling attitude. Soft or pearl white can indicate the gift of prophecy.

• White represents purity. The color is believed to be the highest charging field to bring peace and comfort at the highest level.

• White is said to be the color that best relieves pain.

• White customarily signifies spiritual authority.

• In the alchemic meaning, white is given the female principle as represented by the "White Lily".

• White is the color most often associated with cleanliness or being clean – with phrases like "pure white" or "clean and white". Even on a political level, white takes on the job of trying to "cleanse" at various levels with statements like "to white wash".

• Innocence, chastity—triumph of spirit over the flesh. These are some of the reasons a bride wears white in most societies.

Source: The Internet

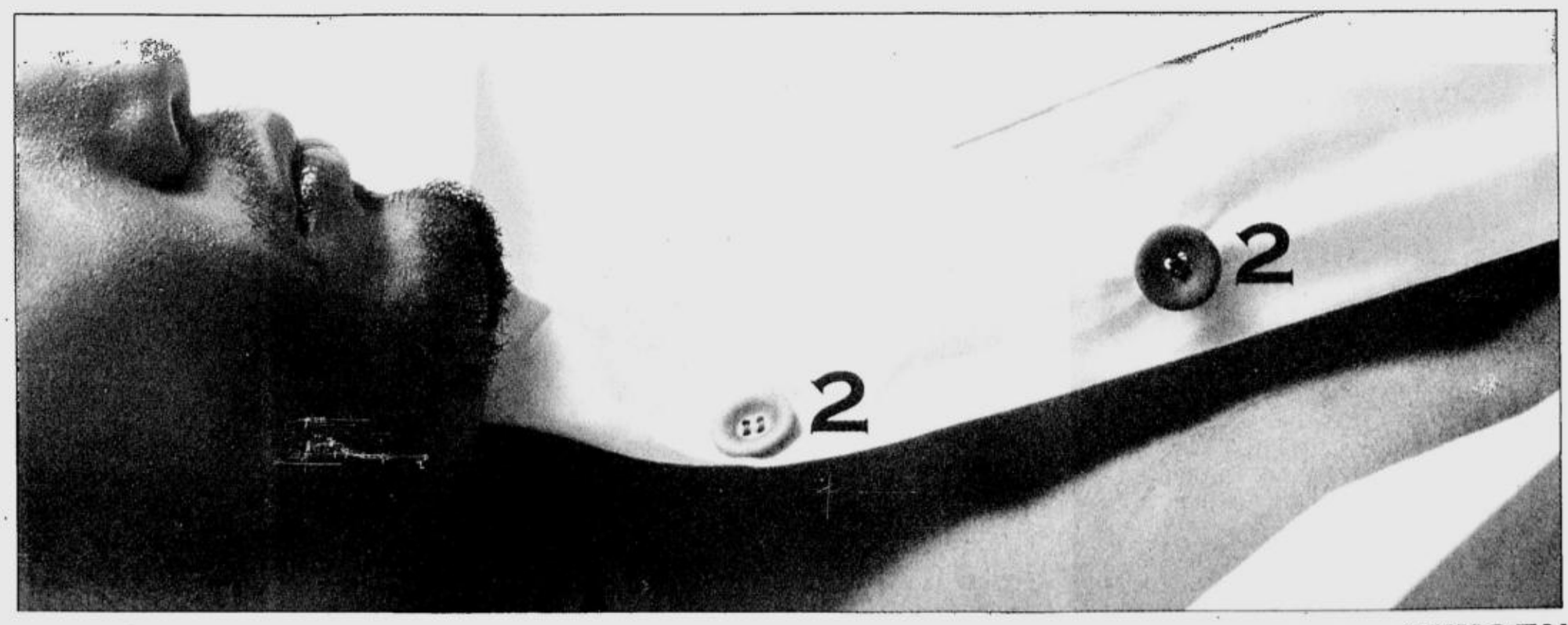
FRESH YEAR, FRESH START, FRESH FACES

Why white? It's a fresh and a very fitting way to start the year. Fresh seems to be the most apropos word to describe the brand, Oxygen. With a fresh line, a fresh ad agency, and a fresh image model, Derek Ramsey, just piping hot from the recently concluded MTV Asia VJ hunt. Derek is a staple in MTV Alternative Nation and a spice to other MTV segments such as Lookout, Be Seen at MTV and Morning TV.

02/02

THE YEAR OF THE HORSE IS THE YEAR OF THE OX

This conjunction can only happen once in a lifetime. So mark it in your brains, for on this year, Oxygen is going to take your breath away. It's an unusual alignment so you can expect nothing of the usual from Oxygen. All things fresh is in stock from their clothes line to their line of thinking. Cryptic you might say, well, Oxygen wants you to keep on guessing. Can't wait? Just keep on breathing. www.oxygenfit.com



THIS YEAR, SOMETHING WILL TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY. **OXYGEN**

Satisfaction's guaranteed even if it's all Greek to you

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-GO to restaurant/bar—Mati. At any given time, Mati, the Greek restaurant that opened its doors only last December (and is still on its soft opening stage), appears to be causing an upset in Manila's restaurant and nightlife scene. The month-old resto/bar is steadily attracting regular patrons of more established places.

Why? Let's start with the food, which happens to be absolutely great. The quality of the food has remained consistent the few times I have eaten there.

Although the names are hard to pronounce (sounds Greek to me), some items on the menu are familiar like grilled lamb and chicken (souvlaki), moussaka or baklava.

As an after-hours bar, Mati has livened up the night scene. I have never seen so many wonderful-looking people in one place at the same time. I tell you the youth today are much more hip. They dress and look better. I spent New Year's Eve there, and every pretty and good-looking young thing seemed to be there, too. It was like a scene from "St. Elmo's Fire" (if you are too young to know what that is, rent the video). Surprisingly, even on a Monday (when everyone is supposed to be home or in the gym), the place was packed especially after a late movie.

As a new year rolls on, this is the place to go to eat, circulate and be seen. Mati is owned by the lovely **Geni Psinakis** with her charming cousin **Yorgos Psinakis** as the restaurant's consultant. It is located at G/L Power Plant Mall, Rockwell. Call 897-6284.

Must-watch movie: "American Adobo." Caught the premiere of one of the most awaited Filipino films for 2002 and I was not disappointed. What makes the movie, which tackles a myriad themes, unique, is our own culture that separates us from other nationalities, such as how we cope with problems by eating, making *chismis* and making fun of other people's miseries.

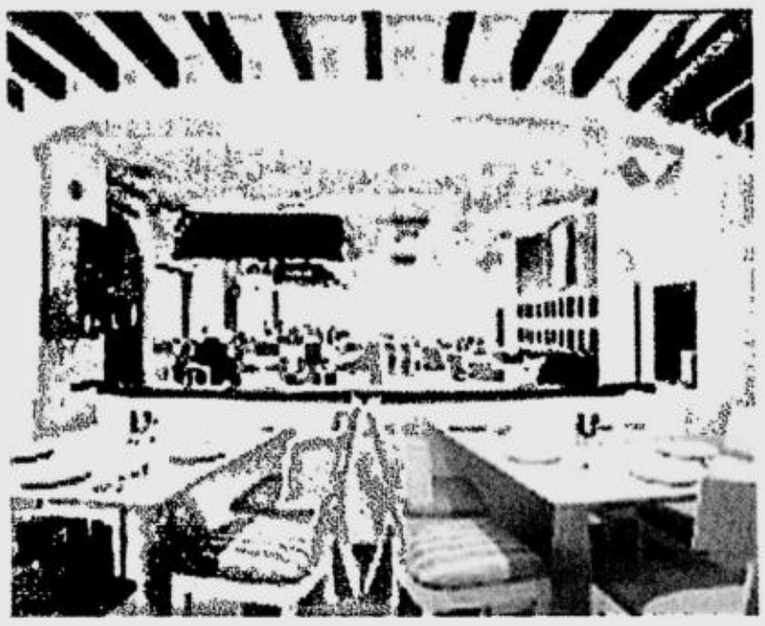
It's a great film and a must-see if you: are a closet mama's boy, lost someone you love, are looking for love, are living abroad and lonely, were cheated by your lover, and belong to a dysfunctional family. I guess that's about the whole metropolis. It's really entertaining and something you can be proud of as a Filipino!

"American Adobo" opens in theaters around the country on Jan. 16. Don't miss this movie!

Best and Worst 2001—Part 3. When I made a list of best and worst 2001, I forgot to mention Ayala Mall's cinema link. It really was one of the best services launched last year. At any time you can call up 729-7777 and find out what's playing where and at what time. The voice of the woman who answers the phone is really calming and gentle. But when the woman who gives the information speaks, you do not know if you should take offense and hang up.

During the Metro Film Festival, when all the theaters were showing Tagalog films, I called the number. The voice on the other end rattled off what were showing like "Tatarin," "Bagong Buwan," "Hubog," etc. I swear, the titles sounded vulgar the way she said them. It was like having phone sex and only the person on the other end was enjoying. To give you a better picture, it's like swimming in what seems to be a placid lake (the girl who answers the phone) then being disrupted by an alligator biting your rubber raft (the second girl).

A legend bows out. For more than 40 years, Yves Saint Laurent revolutionized women's fashion (think: "Le Smoking," Ballet Russe style, motorcycle jacket, pantsuit, Mondrian-inspired dress, androgynous look, safari shirt jacket and peasant blouse). His name has been synonymous with the glamorous era of Paris design in the 1960s and '70s. Now Saint Laurent has announced he is withdrawing from haute couture and closing the fashion house he founded.



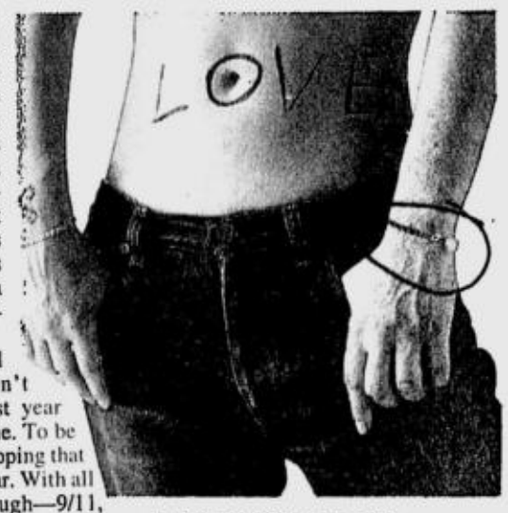
MUST-GO to restaurant—Mati. The Greek restaurant/bar, the place be in. Interiors by Miguel Rosales

MUST-WATCH movie—"American Adobo." The Filipino dish was never this satisfying.

In a press conference last week. the legendary designer said, "I have grappled with anguish and I have been through sheer hell. I have known fear and the terrors of solitude. I have known those fair weather friends we call tranquilizers and drugs. I have known the prison of depression and the confinement of hospital. But one day, I was able to come through all of that, dazzled yet sober."

Although Saint Laurent is retiring, the YSL brand will continue. He has sold the label to Gucci who put Tom Ford in charge. In just a year after Ford took charge, the label's sales increased by more than 150 percent. Saint Laurent maintained the haute couture side of the business but with that side of the fashion world vanishing, it was not feasible to keep going. He will have his final haute couture show on Jan. 22 at the Centre Georges Pompidou.

Must-have bracelet—Alessi. You may never get the Louis Vuitton charm bracelet you've always wanted and this may **not** be a good alternative, but it sure is fun, hip and definitely a conversation piece. Alessi, the more than hip Italian distributor of home and office furnishings, has come out with a jewelry line. The bracelet, called Tag Along, works like a love and friendship bangle. The body is made of plastic and the clasp is in silver. The piece comes in black and white. With Valentine's Day approaching, it's something to think about. The bracelet retails at P1,847. Alessi store is located at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati, tel. 894-6009.



MUST-HAVE bracelet—Alessi's Tag Along

On new years and new beginnings. I don't know about you, but last year was not a good year for me. To be blunt, it was awful. I am hoping that things will change this year. With all the things we went through—9/11, sensational murders, heartaches, losing a loved one, economic crisis, tons of work, etc.—the events of 2001 somehow deadened my spirit.

The latter part of 2001 was like the "Night of the Living Dead," with me as a member of the cast (think: zombie).

When Christmas came, I went through the motions of giving gifts and going to parties but my heart was not in what I was doing. Drowning in booze or even heading for Baguio or Boracay seemed like a sure-fire way to beat the blues, but when things came to a halt, it was just not fun! Disappointments, major personal and collective setbacks tend to dampen your mood.

As we move on to 2002, the specter of further terrorist attacks, coup plots, kidnappings, corrupt politicians give you a sense of déjà vu. When will the whole thing end? While writing this piece, I had to step back and that's when I realized, there's a new year. I repeated those four words, "It's a New Year!," like a mantra until their significance hit me.

YVES Saint Laurent, a legend says goodbye.

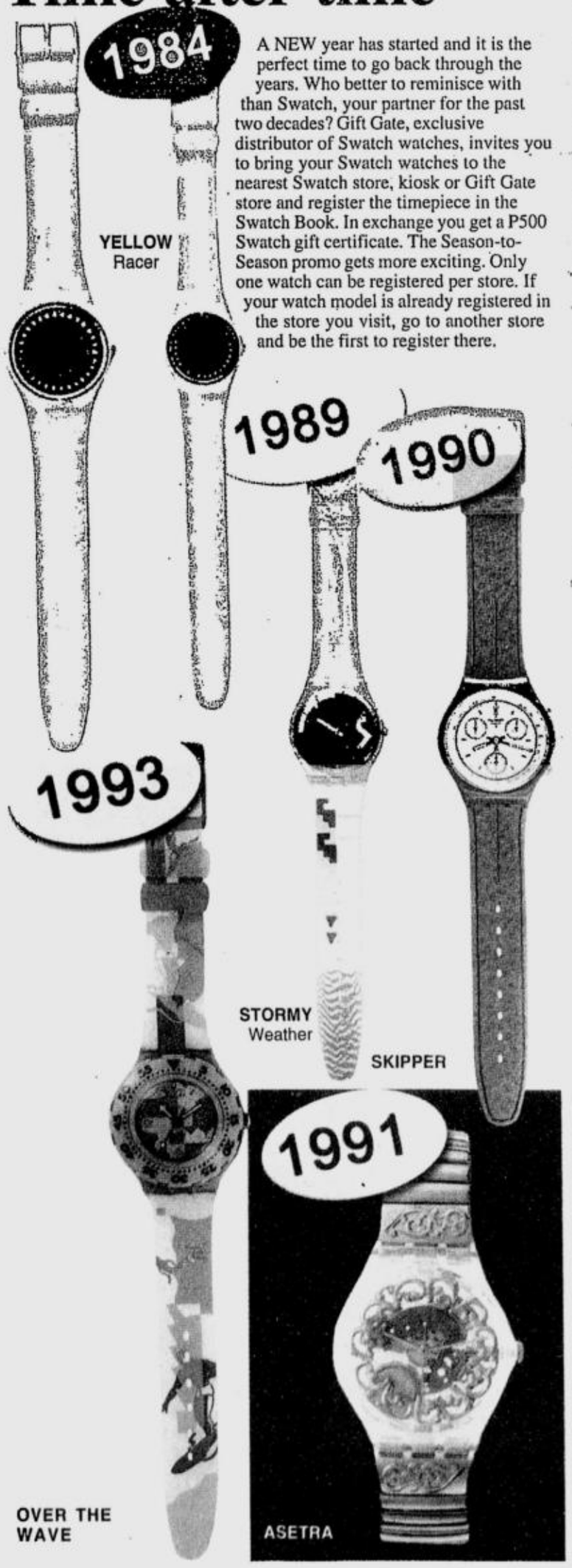
The sins (Osama's, grandstanding politician's and your own), stupidities and events of 2001 are but a memory now. We can learn from them (we better if we don't want to repeat them), but we have to move on! I even caught myself saying to friends, when asked about a certain person or event, "Oh, that's so 2001!"

It's Jan. 13. For those who have not realized it yet, it's a chance for a brand new start! It doesn't mean things will be better (coup rumors are making my hair curl tighter), but what the heck! We have to start living. We have to make better and wiser choices, not take people for granted. We have to pray, enjoy and smile!

It's time to live for the here and now, and forget the past. So here's to 2002, may it be the best for **all** of us!

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

Time after time



A NEW year has started and it is the perfect time to go back through the years. Who better to reminisce with than Swatch, your partner for the past two decades? Gift Gate, exclusive distributor of Swatch watches, invites you to bring your Swatch watches to the nearest Swatch store, kiosk or Gift Gate store and register the timepiece in the Swatch Book. In exchange you get a P500 Swatch gift certificate. The Season-to-Season promo gets more exciting. Only one watch can be registered per store. If your watch model is already registered in the store you visit, go to another store and be the first to register there.

Just like Lipton Ice Tea

ANNA SHIER AND DEREK RAMSEY: NEXT COOL VJs TO WATCH

When MTV introduced the concept of a video jock on the boobtube a couple of years ago, people across the globe just couldn't have enough of them. Fusing together music and a no-nonsense approach to hosting proved to be the pioneering music channel's contribution to pop culture.

Locally, who would not be familiar with Belinda Panelo, KC Montero or the largely successful Donita Rose? These MTV VJs have made every young and old *Pinoy* hooked on the music channel everyday. The pretty Sarah Meier, another Fil-Am MTV VJ, also joined KC and Belinda in hosting the 2001 MTV VJ Search in front of a crowd composed mostly of the contestants' families, relatives and friends.

This year's MTV VJ Hunt started with a nationwide search of 400 hopefuls. The number was eventually trimmed down to 10 young individuals chosen for their unique and engaging hosting styles.

The final phase of the "hunting" did not prove to be tedious this time. Held at the SM Megamall Mega Strip in Mandaluyong City, the search surprisingly produced not just one but two lucky winners who got the 16 judges' nods and the much-coveted MTV "magic hats."

Best pair

Anna Shier, 22, and Derek Ramsey, 24, bested the other hopefuls as they hosted their way straight to the audience's as well as the judges' hearts that night. Anna's hosting abilities was a runaway choice while Derek's funny antics really tickled the crowd.

Together, they possessed a rare chemistry lacking in the other pairs that night. Once onstage, they immediately radiated confidence and freshness, which captured everyone's attention.

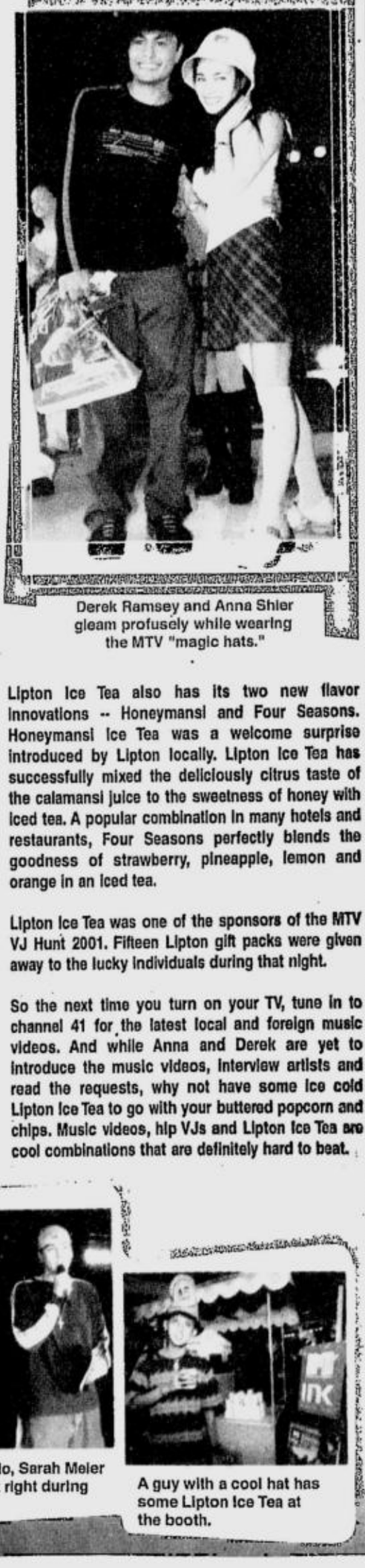
But more than just pretty faces, Anna and Derek are both achievers. Anna is a magna cum laude pre-med graduate of the University of Minnesota. She was also a former Miss Philippine Minnesota in 1995, an aspiring medical student and a print and commercial model.

Derek, meanwhile, is a marketing and electrical engineering graduate from England. The male stunner likewise hosts *Eat Bulaga!* thrice a week and models for the Oxygen clothing line.

The Lipton example

Just like Lipton Ice Tea, Anna and Derek are the best examples of cool and dynamic individuals –the perfect models for the youth of today. Lipton Ice Tea is the preferred drink of the young, as it embodies the spirit of fun and adventure. Its wholesome persona captivates its target market, mostly comprised of teeners as well as young professionals. Lipton Ice Tea shares the same attributes as today's young generation –it is active, fun, sociable, energetic and optimistic. Truly, there is no other drink that understands the youth better than Lipton Ice Tea.

The right drink for your thirst, Lipton Ice Tea is The Tea Authority in the local market today. Its classic lemon flavor is served in most bars and restaurants not only in Metro Manila, but across the country as well.



Derek Ramsey and Anna Shier gleam profusely while wearing the MTV "magic hats."

Lipton Ice Tea also has its two new flavor innovations -- Honeymansi and Four Seasons. Honeymansi Ice Tea was a welcome surprise introduced by Lipton locally. Lipton Ice Tea has successfully mixed the deliciously citrus taste of the calamansi juice to the sweetness of honey with iced tea. A popular combination in many hotels and restaurants, Four Seasons perfectly blends the goodness of strawberry, pineapple, lemon and orange in an iced tea.

Lipton Ice Tea was one of the sponsors of the MTV VJ Hunt 2001. Fifteen Lipton gift packs were given away to the lucky individuals during that night.

So the next time you turn on your TV, tune in to channel 41 for the latest local and foreign music videos. And while Anna and Derek are yet to introduce the music videos, interview artists and read the requests, why not have some Ice cold Lipton Ice Tea to go with your buttered popcorn and chips. Music videos, hip VJs and Lipton Ice Tea are cool combinations that are definitely hard to beat.

The 10 finalists pose onstage for the shutterbugs.

(From left): MTV VJs Belinda Panelo, Sarah Meier and KC Montero show how to do it right during the awards night.

A guy with a cool hat has some Lipton Ice Tea at the booth.

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Hunk: Gr8! me too!

Shadow: ASL Garfield

Garfield: I'm 20 M Makati

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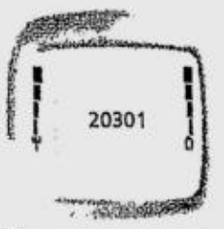

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Weddings & Engagements

LIGHT OF THEIR LIVES. Paul and Nina Poblador with officiating priest, Fr. William Kruetz

A wedding with trademark Tesoro touches

Fr. William Kruetz, who solemnized the marriage, also officiated at the wedding of the bride's parents almost 32 years ago

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

TITO and Patis Tesoro's daughter Nina Tesoro exchanged "I dos" recently with longtime beau Paul Poblador, capping a nine-year romance that dates back to their college days at the De La Salle University.

Fr. William Kruetz solemnized the marriage at the Nuestra Señora de Guia Church, popularly known as the Ermita Church. Indeed, how time flies. He also officiated at the wedding of Tito and Patis more than 31 years ago at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park.

"Nina and I have been together for nine years," said Paul during the outdoor reception that followed at the Orchidarium. "What kept us together? I'd always tell her that you rock my world."

Nina, the third and only girl in a brood of four, was ecstatic. "Thank you so much for making this [occasion] so special for us," the bleached-blonde bride beamed.

The wedding had a unique Southeast Asian flavor only Patis could have cooked up. Men eschewed the coat and tie in favor of stylized *barongs* in every imaginable style and color. Male sponsors, for instance, wore tie-dyed Chinese-inspired *piña barongs* in shades of blue or fuchsia. The same material was used for the women's gowns.

The bride, of course, wore her mother's creation, an off-shoulder column fashioned from white Chinese brocade topped with a *pañuelo* cum blouse, *tapis* and train made of *piña* silk. Patis patterned the outer layer's embroidery and beadwork after the Chinese brocade.

"I'm very grateful to my Mom," she said when we teased her later about Patis' trademark touches. "I wouldn't have it any other way."

Paul and Nina were far from being the best of friends. In fact, they were indifferent to each other when they first met. She was taking up mass communication, and he was studying to become an electronics and communications engineer.

"She was one of the smart ones," said Paul, "while I was one of the shy ones. We didn't like each other."

Nina then had just given birth to son Enzo, the product of a failed relationship. Plunging into a new one was farthest from her mind.

Her heart had other ideas though. For some strange, magical reason, the two soon became drawn to each other.

"Paul and I eventually became friends," said Nina. "I was going through a lot, and he had been very supportive." Before long their friendship turned into romance.

The would-be engineer shifted to hotel and restaurant management. Only after finishing his college education and, later, culinary studies in the United States, did Paul feel ready to pop the question.

"It's time to move on," he said. "After working for a while, we decided it's time for us to settle down and start something on our own."

The honeymoon in London, courtesy of *ninang* Margie Holmes and British partner Jeremy Baer, has to wait. The couple is busy putting the finishing touches to their Baguio bistro near the city's famous grotto. Paul's domain, of course, will be the kitchen, while Nina will manage the restaurant.

"My dad's family owns two houses in Baguio," said Nina. "They haven't been used for quite some time now so we thought of converting one into a restaurant. The house was like a gift from my *lola* before she passed away."

Aside from material assistance, dad Tito also offered a nugget of wisdom on how to make a marriage work: "Always try to see something new in each other."

(More photos on page E2)

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A wedding with trademark Tesoro touches

(From page E1)

SEALED WITH A KISS. The couple gives in to guests' clamor during the reception.

THE COUPLE with principal sponsors (front row, from left) Norma Lim, Maribel Tesoro, Backie Celdran, Lulu Castañeda, Ogee Atos, Myk Pamintúan, Nonon Padilla, Joey Panlilio; (second row, from left) Peanut Pamintuan, Lourdes Cuerva, Evelyn Lim-Forbes, Margie Holmes, Jeremy Baer, Ado Escudero, Sonny Tinio and Ariel Capistrano

NINA and Paul with Moises Sia, Tata Poblador, Zeny Celdran, Iñigo Elizalde, Aslie Aslanan, Denise Celdran and Crisan Celdran

THE TESORO FAMILY—Raffy, Joel, Patis, Nina, Tito, Enzo and Nicky

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

LLAMAS-BENDIGO

Catherine S. Bendigo and **Raymond M. Llamas** were wed recently at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila. The reception was held at the Grand Ballroom, Heritage Hotel Manila.

PO-GUISON

Doctors **Jimmy Po** and **Tricia Guison** will wed on Jan. 26, 9:30 a.m., at the San Agustin Church. The bride will wear a wedding gown by **Tony Cajucom**, while the bridegroom will wear a *barong* Tagalog by **Gerry Katigbak**. Jimmy is into internal medicine, while Tricia is into family medicine. The bridegroom is the son of **Ang Min Po** and **Teresita Martin Bautista**, while the bride is the daughter of **Roberto Landicho Guison** and **Irma Moya Guison**. Reception will follow at the Maynila Ballroom.

SOLOMON-DIROY

Joel Albano Solomon, son of **Jose Acoba** and **Avelina Albano Solomon**, will wed **Imee Matibag Diroy**, daughter of 2Lt. **Elpidio Feraer Diroy** (PAF ret.) and **Avelina Matibag**, on Jan. 26 at the Mary Immaculate Parish, Apollo III, Moonwalk Village, Las Piñas City.

Reception will be held at Italia Country Club, B.F. Resort Village, Las Piñas City. The bride will wear a halter-cut gown made of *gracia* ivory designed by **Cheryl Lopez**.

GOROSPE-SOLIS

Jaime "Junn" Gorospe Jr. and **Elva Maureen Solis** tied the knot on Dec. 16 in Christian rites officiated by Rev. **Fermin Bercero** at AFP Commissioned Officers Country, Tejeros Hall, Camp Aguinaldo, QC. Bride's parents are **Manuel G. Solis** and **Elpidia P. Solis**, and groom's parents are **Jaime C. Gorospe Sr.** and **Marcela G. Gorospe**.

RODRIGUEZ-REYES

Leonardo D. Rodriguez, son of Mr. and Ms **Isagani Rodriguez**, will wed **Nora C. Reyes**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Ricardo Reyes**, on Jan. 27 at the Manila Cathedral. Reception will follow at the Manila Midtown Hotel. Erwin Tan designed the gown.

MASICAT-MERCADO

Rico Masicat and **Grace Mercado** will wed on Jan. 26 at San Guillermo Parish, Talisay Batangas. Reception will follow at the bride's residence on Mabini Street, Talisay, Batangas.

DAVID-CARLOS

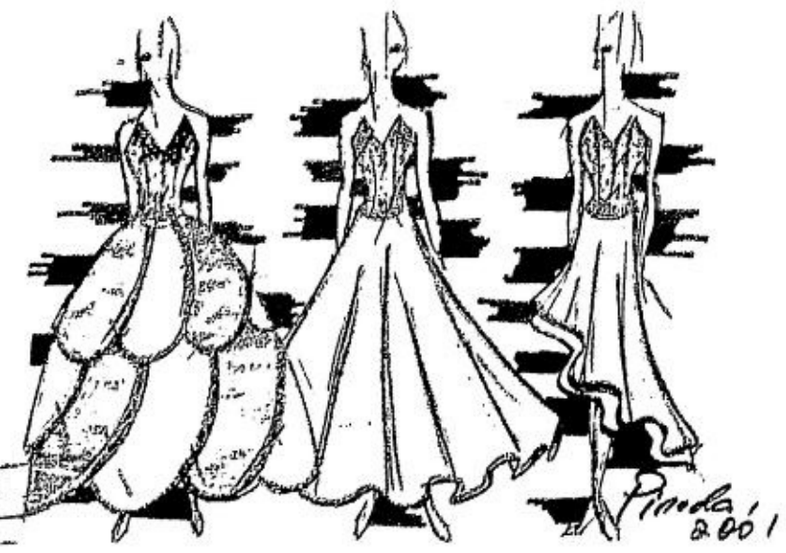
Warren Joselito David, son of **Jaime** and **Monserrat David**, will exchange marital vows with **Clarinda Carlos**, daughter of **Jaime** and **Dulce Carlos**, on Feb. 9 at the Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, West Triangle, QC.

ASNAN-JAEL

Jose Christian "Chris" Asnan and **Ma. Rowena "Wenggaye" Jael** exchanged vows recently at the Minor Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, Tayabas, Quezon. Reception was held at the scenic Nawawalang Paraiso Spring Resort and Hotel, Tayabas, Quezon.

DIÑO-CORDOVA

Jheffrey G. Diño, son of **Restituto** and **Rayalina G. Diño**, wed **Vivian C. Cordova**, daughter of **Rodrigo** and **Maria Cordova**, on Dec. 20 at Our Lady of Light Parish Church, Cainta, Rizal. Reception was held at Las Brisas Hotel & Conference, Antipolo City.



CHIU DEBUT

Apple Chiu, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Domingo Chiu Jr.**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Dec. 21 at the Palawan Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Eric Pineda designed the debutante's gown that featured three skirt changes. The corset top was made of saffron-colored shantung silk sprinkled with Austrian rhinestones and iridescent caviar beads. The full bias skirt was of the same material.

For the *cotillion de honor*, she wore a full-skirted dress with multiple layers of silk organza petals in orange and lemon. She changed into an asymmetric-cut skirt in chiffon georgette for her Latin dance numbers.

The female cotillion dancers wore chiffon gowns in lemon, while the male wore four-button suits in mocha with silk neckties.

BARJA-DOLLENTE

Dennis Barja, son of **Danilo** and **Ofelia Barja**, and **Catherine Dollente**, daughter of **Bonifacio** and **Iluminada Dollente**, exchanged vows on Dec. 22, at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 13th Avenue, Cubao, QC.

KWONG DEBUT

Margaret Victoria S. Kwong, daughter of businessman **Norberto** and **Elizabeth Kwong**, celebrated her debut on Nov. 30 at the Mandarin Oriental's Grand Ballroom. She wore two corset gowns by **Larry Espinosa**—one in aqua green and the other in hot pink—both accented with Swarovski crystals. Margaret is currently a freshman at the De La Salle University.

TRAVEL
ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

THE FAMOUS Lady in the Harbor

STATUE OF LIBERTY POSTCARD COLLECTION SERIES

The world in the Big Apple

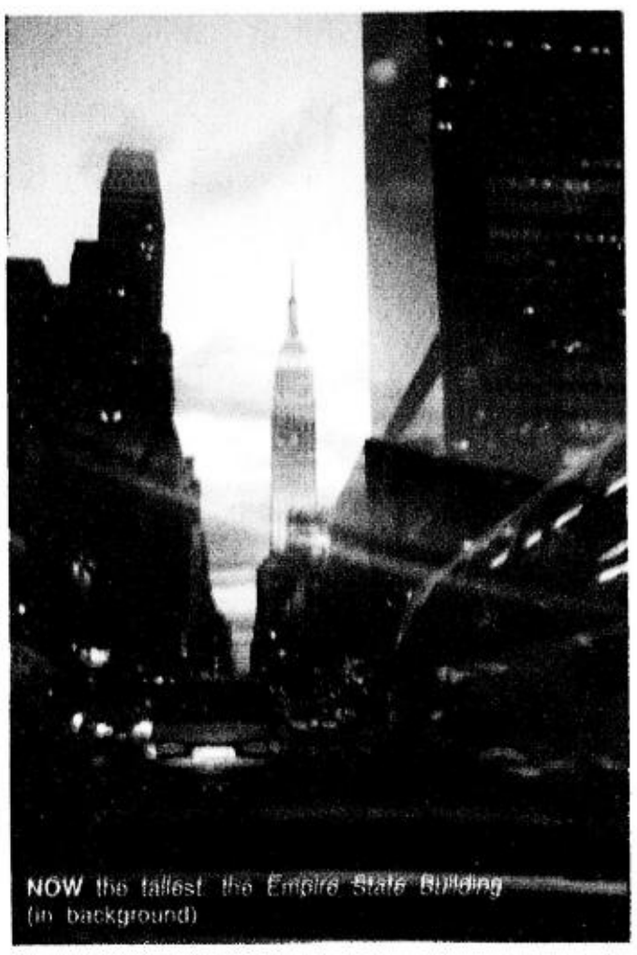
TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO

WHEN Frank Sinatra and Liza Minnelli sang an ode to New York as "a city that never sleeps," they were surely singing of their own sleepless nights there and the throbbing excitement that an out-of-towner (much more a foreign visitor) is likely to be overwhelmed with.

And that was exactly the kind of hyped-up, overdrive feeling we got when we spent a few days in the Big Apple. The Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center forced the city to screech to a stop as the whole of America licked its wounds. But New York is getting back on its feet (if it's not already there)—a resiliency that is truly inspiring.

New York is Manhattan, Broadway, Wall Street, Ellis Island, Greenwich Village, Central Park, Times Square, and the Statue of Liberty. Add to the list skyscrapers, museums, theaters, art galleries, monuments, giant sculptures, etc., etc., etc. The bottom line is you get hustle and bustle more than you can ever imagine. As the very popular ex-Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said in his printed welcome greetings, "I welcome you to our City so full of excitement and diversity."

New Yorkers insist that after visiting their city you need not go elsewhere. It's supposed to be the center of the universe, and you can find everything in it. Take that from the street musician *cum* soul singer graciously accepting a dollar and loose change along 6th Avenue. He had a booming symphony of voices from Pavarotti to Sinatra to Michael Jackson. He also did stand-up comedy and acrobatic stunts for intermission. Ah, only in New York.


NOW the tallest: the Empire State Building (in background)

Understatement

Excitement is really an understatement of what is in store for you in the Big Apple. Whatever your drift, you get much more than you can bargain for—and can't have enough of.

You can have your fill watching plays, ballets and concerts; visiting museums, parks, churches and other landmarks; getting awed by the view from atop the Statue of Liberty or the Empire State Building (just don't look in the direction of the World Trade Center rubble); and enjoying the best in baseball, football, basketball, hockey and soccer.

You can shop until you drop in signature shops along 5th Avenue in Manhattan; indulge your palate at the upscale restaurants along 6th Avenue or the folksy taverns in Central Park; or just chat the night away with friends on Broadway or Times Square. Oh, the possibilities are truly endless.

We came to New York via Northwest Airlines on the kind invitation of Pfizer Philippines to attend the 14th Annual Symposium on Drugs Affecting Cholesterol Metabolism. The Philippine delegation consisted of Doctors Ric Fernando, Espie Cabral, Maning Lim, Rody Sy, Chao Cruz-Sevilla, Gigi Revada, Egay Zaragoza, our efficient travel coordinator and Pfizer cluster head manager, and myself.

The trip afforded us an educational, exciting experience—a good mix of scientific updating and pleasurable sightseeing unfortunately cut short by the Sept. 11 tragedy. The attack somewhat depressed us for the following days. But later the Big Apple seemed to say, "Don't worry about me. I'm OK. They can topple my giant edifices, but they can never bend my spirit. You can help my wounds heal faster if you have the great excitement you came here for. Go have some fun!"

And yes, in New York anything goes and you can always find a million reasons to have fun. New Yorkers like to say there's always something new to see around every corner, always something to give you a pleasant surprise.

Indeed, whatever your interests are, there's a 10 to 1 chance you'll end your visit planning your next trip to New York.

Survival

But there's just a chance that you will get into some kind of trouble and ruin your visit. Here are some tips for survival in the paved jungle.

Don't flash your cash, especially your $100 bills. Make sure you have enough small change. Keep your wallet out of sight, preferably not in your back pocket. Make sure your belt bag or shoulder bag is in front of you, not on your back. Leave your jewelry in the safety box in your hotel. If you must wear, say, a necklace, wear it under your shirt or blouse.

Beware of any commotion, such as teenage kids chasing each other or arguing loudly in front of you. They could be staging a scene to distract you. If someone bumps or jolts you, check your belongings, especially your wallet, immediately.

It's always in your best interest to avoid looking like a tourist or an out-of-towner. The subway station and bus terminal are not exactly the best places to be seen with your camera or tourist brochures. Plan beforehand exactly where you're heading before you emerge from the subway or the bus. Walk fast and pretend you're a long-time resident. If you have to check your location, do it a few blocks down the road where the coast is, uh, clearer.

In case of lost passports or credit cards, terrorist attacks, whatever, the staff at the Philippine consulate along 5th Avenue can be very helpful. After the Sept. 11 attack that left us stranded in the city with no clear idea of what was to happen next, we visited the consulate and no less than the consul herself, Linglingay Lacanlale, attended to us.

She reassured us that the situation was under control and that the consulate had contingency plans for Filipinos in a worst-case scenario. Meanwhile, she said, we should just relax and enjoy, as good tourists should do!

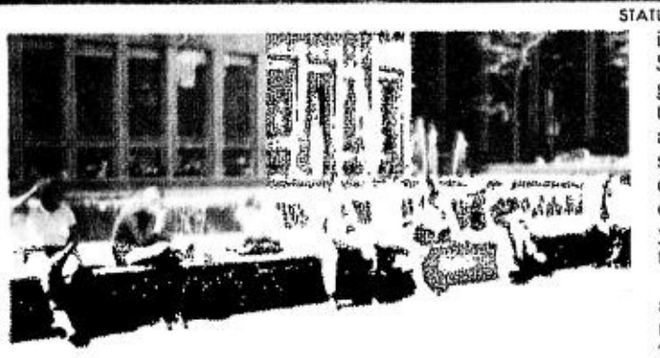
Bravado

But the good tourist should remember that in New York, people always seem to be in a hurry. Even those in suits or other elegant attire stride fast on the sidewalks, ignoring stoplights and crossing streets with the acrobatic bravado of stuntmen in a Keanu Reeves movie.

Unless you're prepared to get a whiplash, avoid leisurely ambling or making sudden stops on the sidewalks. Reserve the ambling for the museums and galleries. If you have to stop to take a photo or just admire the sights, make sure you do that safely on the side and out of the way of those racing New Yorkers.

Getting around the city is not a problem. If the P51.96-to-$1 exchange rate is no bother, you can take the ubiquitous limousine—a Lincoln Town or even a stretch Mercedes—and leisurely sip your Martini when you get stuck in traffic.

But if you want to save your hard-earned greenbacks, taking the subway or local bus is the best way to get around. The fare is $1.50 no matter how far you go. For dollar-pinching tourists like myself, New York also has a MetroCard, which you can buy at many hotels or at the Times Square Visitors' Center. The MetroCard, called the "Fun-Pass" card, entitles you to unlimited rides—meaning you can hop on and off the subway trains and local buses as many times as you like, all day long. At $4 for a day pass, it's certainly the least expensive way to see the sights in the Big Apple.


QUALITY time for New Yorkers

There's a 10 to 1 chance you'll end your visit planning your next trip there

Hanging out

Greenwich Village is the favorite hangout of bohemians, artists, writers and intellectuals. Its image as a cauldron of rebelliousness and non-conformity persists to this day.

Known now simply as the Village, it boasts an array of stylish jazz clubs and aromatic coffee shops. The atmosphere is, naturally, laid-back and offbeat, and it's a charming experience to stroll through or nonchalantly linger over your espresso in a sidewalk café. Among its previous famous residents are Mark Twain, Washington Irving, Edgar Allan Poe—and Madonna.

Near the southern tip of Manhattan are Chinatown and Little Italy. The original city of New York began in these districts—a melting pot where waves of immigrants arrived over the past centuries.

West of Little Italy is SoHo, a small neighborhood that got its name from its location, south of Houston Street. SoHo is rich in culture, with modern art galleries, antique shops, fashion boutiques, eclectic restaurants and cast-iron architecture. This district houses massive buildings with cast-iron facades decorated with cornices, moldings and other ornate structures that stretch your imagination and bring you back to the last century.

The Financial District revolves around Wall Street in lower Manhattan. In this district are the (late) World Trade Center and the New York Stock Exchange. Except for the residents in the area, the place has been closed to pedestrians from Canal Street down to the twin-tower area. I was able to pass through the police cordon by showing my press card, plus a lot of Philippine-style convincing that mercifully worked.

The five-acre landscaped plaza of the World Trade Center used to be an attraction, as well as the observation deck on the 107th floor that offered a picturesque view for miles and miles on end. As they said then, on a clear day you could almost see eternity from atop the World Trade Center.

Must-go

Don't miss South Street Seaport when you go to New York. It was restored to the way it looked in the 1800s. You can get good bargains in the shops on Schermerhorn Row. It has shops that look like the 19th century, but of course with 21st-century prices.

After shopping, you can walk over to the pier and board one of the tall ships or the Ambrose lighthouse boat to see how the sailors lived then. Or you can just sit on one of the benches facing the harbor and enjoy the balmy breeze of the waterfront.

Then there's the Theater District where, on a lucky day, you might see some of the bright stars of Broadway. There are more than 30 playhouses to choose from, all producing marvelous shows like "Les Misérables," "Phantom of the Opera," "Cabaret" and "Chicago."

After watching a show, walk a couple of blocks and feel the throbbing pulse of people from all walks of life gossiping, arguing or shouting expletives at Times Square.

Got extra time and extra dollars? There are other places to go to, like the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building observatory, Grand Central terminal, Madame Tussaud's wax museum, Madison Square Garden, Intrepid Sea Air Space museum, Lazer Park, Loew's Imax theater, NBC studios, Radio City Music Hall, United Nations Building... You get the idea.

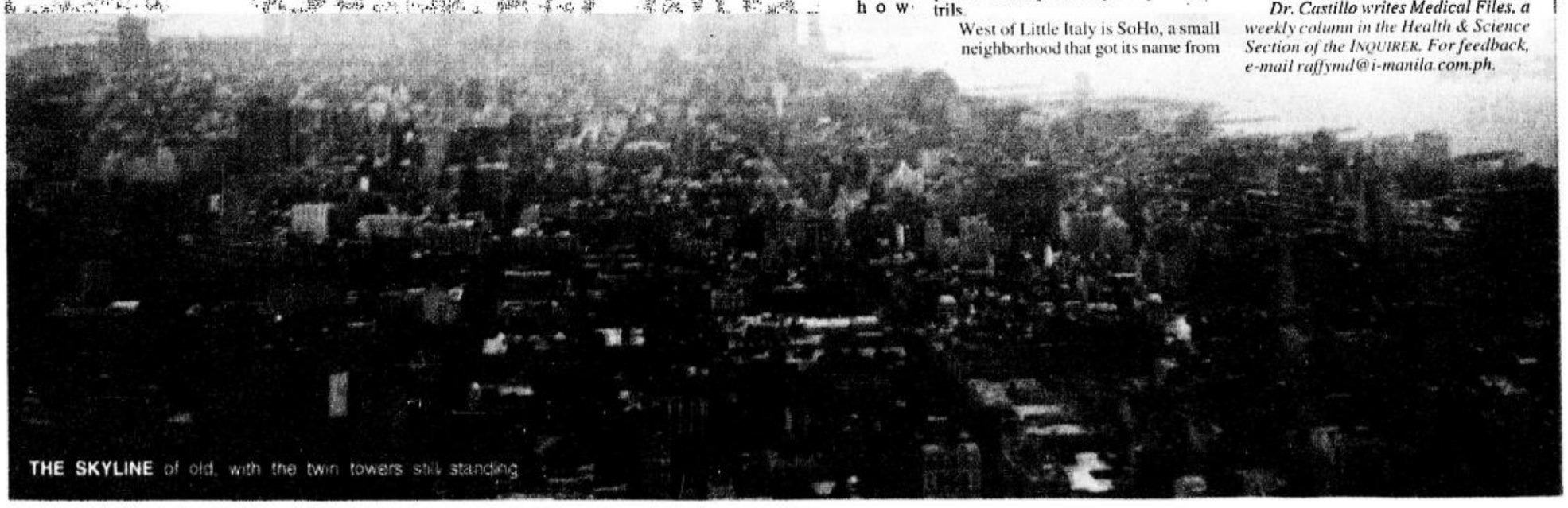
On the Northwest plane back to Manila, Dianne, the charming flight attendant, told me as she took my jacket to hang, "I hope you had a great time in New York despite what happened."

I smiled and answered, "You bet!" then dozed off and dreamed I was back in the Big Apple.

AN AFTERLIFE (shop), yes

In Chinatown are 12 Buddhist temples, countless stores and street vendors selling anything from silk and jade to ginseng root and rare mushrooms. The noodle houses are fluorescent-lit, the herb shops reek of medicine, and the sidewalk stalls overflow with exotic vegetables.

Strolling down Mulberry Street between Grand and Canal Streets in the borough of Little Italy will make you wonder whether you're still in New York. It looks more like Italy than America with the cafés and pastry, cheese and butcher shops. The scents of cheese, freshly baked bread and espresso beans pleasantly fill your nostrils.


THE SKYLINE of old, with the twin towers still standing

Dr. Castillo writes Medical Files, a weekly column in the Health & Science Section of the INQUIRER. For feedback, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Paging service

CATHAY Pacific Airways has announced that its popular notiFLY flight paging service has been enhanced to allow frequent flyers to automatically get text message updates of departures and any status change sent to their mobile phones or e-mail accounts every time they fly with the airline.

Previously, passengers had to make a separate request for notiFLY messages for each flight via www.cathaypacific.com or a handheld device such as a Palm PDA.

Another optional feature of notiFLY is pre-flight e-mail, which sends an at-a-glance summary of the travel itinerary and destination information for every booking. The e-mail includes one-click access to the airline's online check-in service and the option of sending additional notiFLY messages to confirm flight arrivals to "meeters and greeters."

Up-to-date weather forecasts and flight destination information are also included in the e-mail message.

Mobile phone subscribers in every country served by Cathay Pacific can receive the automatic text messages in English, Chinese, Japanese or Korean.

Marco Polo Club and Asia Miles members can choose to receive automatic notiFLY messages and preflight e-mail as a standard part of their customer profile. The service is free of charge.

10 millionth guest

THE MACAU Special Administrative Region (MSAR) welcomed its 10 millionth visitor last December at a special press conference led by Joao Manuel Costa Antunes, director general of the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO).

The MGTO's promotions, discount privileges and educational campaigns have led to high figures of tourist arrivals from its first top six markets: Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Japan, the United States and the Philippines.

Antunes said that "to further raise quality of tourism service and to enrich knowledge about Macau's tourism industry," the MGTO launched the "Macau Tourism Awareness Campaign" as well as the "Macau Welcomes You Passport" last September.

"We are also exploring new markets, especially the Southeast Asian markets and countries which have direct air links with Macau," he said.

Dinner-dance

A GALA dinner-dance at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila's Bahia Rooftop Restaurant recently capped the 6th National Convention of Women in Travel Manila.

With the theme "Tourism: Fast Forward to Meet the Challenges of the Times," the convention allowed top female decision-makers in the travel and tourism industry to exchange ideas and experiences and to actively participate in the planning and development of travel industry affairs.

Seen at the scene were immediate past president Carmen Flor, founding director and lifetime member Chit Montenegro, secretary Luz Reyes, past vice president Alice San Juan, past president Patti King, treasurer Lulu Velasco, vice president Merle Villacorta, members Yayo Atienza and Carmen McTavish and president Annette Feliciano.

WIT Manila is affiliated with the International Federation of Women's Travel Organizations, an alliance of over 3,500 professional women from 35 countries.

Christmas cheer

HOLIDAY Inn Manila again celebrated Christmas with the children of Senden Home and its two new beneficiaries, the Kanlungan sa Ermita-Malate Ministry and the Baseco School in Port Area, Manila.

These three institutions are now the official beneficiaries of Holiday Inn Manila Cares (HIMC), the hotel's program for charitable projects.

In "Paskong Alay sa Baseco," management and staff turned over to the students of Baseco School reference books, cookies and candies.

In "Paskong Makulay," the children of Senden Home, a temporary shelter for homeless boys in Sta. Ana, Manila, were treated to a face-painting activity in the morning and an art workshop in the afternoon, with games in between. A cash donation of P500,000—raised by the hotel from percentages of food and beverage sales, room sales and PR and marketing communications efforts—was presented right after the workshop.

The Christmas treat for Senden Home, an adopted center of the hotel for eight years now, was made possible through the cooperation of Faber-Castell, Jimboy Clowns and Specialist and Je-an Printing.

In "Kalinga sa Kanlungan," the kids received gift toys and clothes and were treated to a holiday meal.

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CLUE:
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Your registration automatically earns you a raffle entry for all weekly draws.

Play The Game!

You will then receive a clue about the mystery tone of the day.

Guess The Title By Downloading The Tone!

Key in TONE and send to 234. Together with the downloaded tone, you will also receive the multiple choice set of ringtone titles.

Text in your Answer!

Simply key in ANSWER <A, B or C> and send to 234. You will receive a message telling you whether you got the correct answer or not. There will only be one chance to guess the mystery tone of the day. Each correct answer earns you 5 raffle entries for the Weekly, Monthly and Grand draws.

Invite Your Friends And Earn More Raffle Entries!

Key in INVITE <your friend's SMART celfone number> and send to 234. Each invite earns you 1 raffle entry, to be added to your total raffle entries.

To redisplay the clue, key in SHOW and send to 234.
To check your raffle entries, key in POINTS and send to 234.
To temporarily stop receiving the daily questions, key in UPDATE OFF and send to 234.
To resume receiving the daily questions, key in UPDATE ON and send to 234.
The mystery tone of the day will be updated at 12 midnight daily.

Only subscribers with ringtone-download-capable handsets will be able to hear the mystery tone of the day. However, downloading is necessary to get the multiple choice set of ringtone titles. A subscriber without the necessary handset can still answer based on the clue and multiple choice set of ringtone titles.

WIN THESE PRIZES!

DRAW DATE	CASH PRIZE
GRAND DRAW: (1 winner) Feb. 11, 2002	₱200,000.00
MONTHLY DRAWS: (1 winner per draw) Jan. 14 and Feb. 11, 2002	₱50,000.00
WEEKLY DRAWS: (3 winners per draw) Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, and 11, 2002	₱10,000.00

**There will be a standard charge of ₱12.00 per ringtone download and ₱2.50 per message for all other transactions.*
**Cut-off time for the entries will be at 11:59 PM of the day before the draw date.*
**Ringtone-download-capable handsets are: Nokia 3210, 3310, 3330, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8310, and 9210.*

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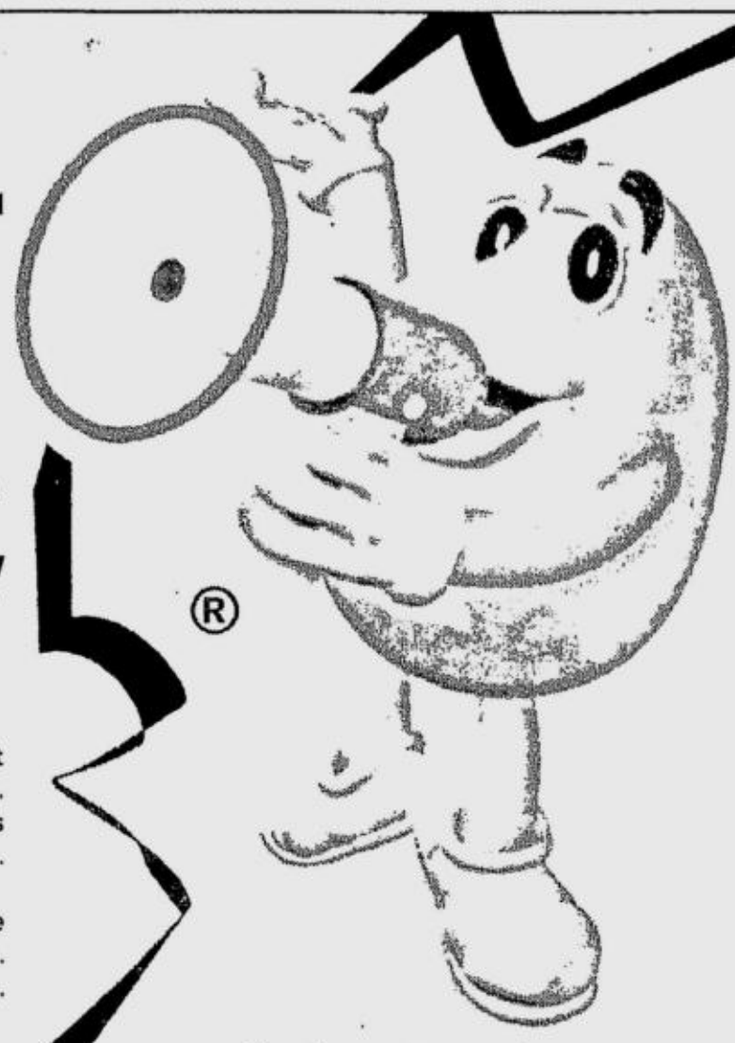

At Master Foods we are striving to achieve brand leadership in our portfolio of World's Best Products. Through innovation, creativity, integrity and hard work we are realizing our goals. To continue our achievements we need exceptionally talented goal oriented individuals to join our young and dynamic organization.

Group Product Manager

Successful candidates will be in-charge of managing the best known brands in the market through conceptualizing and implementing marketing strategies for the assigned brands. Developing consumer and trade promotions as well as developing merchandising materials to ensure the profitability of the brand and budget allocation is part of the function.

Candidates must have solid background in building and managing brands from one of the fast moving consumer group. The individual must be dynamic, innovative and creative. He or she must be a team player and must be able to work in a fast paced environment.

Sales Manager

We are looking for qualified individuals who can be responsible in areas of Key Account Management, Distribution Management and Territory Management.

Candidate should have solid work experience in any of above-mentioned areas, college degree with good planning and organizational skills, good implementor and result orientated . Candidate must also possess leadership flair, proficient in communication skills, computer literate and knows how to drive.

Trade Marketing Manager

The Trade Marketing Manager is responsible for helping to ensure that our brands are available in all trade channels, products are well displayed and consumers are encouraged to purchase. As the Trade Marketing Manager you will be responsible for developing consumer promotions, trade channel strategies, in-store display presence, promotional planning, preparation of selling tools and point of sale.

To be successful the candidate must have proven track record in Brand or Trade Marketing Activities. You should be able to substantiate your skills in the areas of planning, trade relationships, written communication, analysis, oral presentation and successful implementation of a trade marketing program. The successful candidate will need to prove their ability to work under demanding deadlines.

Send your resume to:
The Personnel & Organization Division
Master Foods Philippines, Inc.,
Ayala Life-FGU Center
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or e-mail: mfpi.jobs@ap.effem.com

The application period ends on January 18, 2002.
We will only respond to qualified applicants.
Previous applicants need not apply.

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Jardine Davies

Jardine Davies is one of the longest established marketing companies in the Philippines and is the exclusive distributor of several 'world leading' brands of Agricultural Chemicals and Construction Supplies.

We have strong sales and marketing teams in both these highly competitive fast moving product sectors, where the demands for professional 'solution' sales skills are high. However, we now wish to further strengthen the team with the appointment of additional

AREA MANAGERS
LUZON / VISAYAS

The Area Manager's main responsibility will be to service and expand our Distributor, Dealer and End user (Farmer and Contractor network). The appointee will be responsible for a sales team, developing our industry and Government relations as well as local promotion work.

Applicants **must** have worked with a multi national fast moving consumer products industry and be able to demonstrate success and development within their careers to date.

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required. Applicants **must** be between 25 – 40 and be enthusiastic self starters.

Competitive salary packages and benefits with structured training and career paths are offered to outstanding applicants.

Please send your resume by post, email or fax to:

Ms. Nanette Poblador
Jardine Davies
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. 844-7022
E-mail: HRD@jdigroup.com

Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

Jardine Davies is a member of the Jardine Matheson Group.

CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB

The most complete and modern health and leisure sports club in The country invites potential high caliber sales professionals to promote first class projects:

WANTED: *Articulate, Good looking and Aggressive Individuals who will earn as much as P 100,000.00 / month by promoting today's fastest selling & most sought-after investment.*

CELEBRITY CLUB MEMBERSHIP
PROPRIETARY SHARES
CELEBRITY PLACE TOWNHOUSES & CONDOMINIUM

If you are:
- 20-30 years old, attractive, good-looking, male/female.
- Aggressive with good communication skills.
- With good connections and prospect listings

You will receive:
- Basic salary.
- Commissions and bonuses.
- Intensive training and marketing support

Depending on your qualifications and interests, you can become:

- *MARKETING EXECUTIVES*
- *TELEMARKETERS*
- *MARKETING COORDINATOR*

This is an urgent requirement. Assumption of accepted applicants will be on February 1, 2002, after intensive training. Interested applicants may apply in person. Bring your resume' and 2 x 2 photo at the Marketing Department of CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA Capitol Hills Diliman, Quezon City on JANUARY 14-20, 2002, Monday to Sunday, between 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
Or call 931-2107, 951-3333 loc. 107/217 look for Boots, Deunice or Liz.

APTi

APTi-Philippines, Inc. is a Research and Development Company and an affiliate of **IBM Japan, Ltd.**

We are looking for a Highly Motivated :

Finance Officer

Main Job: To participate in the overall corporate planning, budget control and financial evaluation of the company.

Qualifications:
- Female, single, not more than 28 years of age
- C.P.A. with at least 2 years of work experience in Business Planning
- Graduate of a reputable school
- High potential for management position in the future
- Computer literate
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Must possess strong leadership skills, solid interpersonal communication skills and must be a team player
- Preferably residing near Alabang

Finance Staff

Main Job: To assist in preparation of financial analysis reports.

Qualifications:
- Female, single, not more than 23 years of age
- Graduate of any 4-year business course from a reputable school, with or without experience
- Result-oriented and a good team player
- Computer literate
- Good oral and written communication skills
- With good and pleasing personality
- Preferably residing near Alabang

Accounting Clerk

Main Job: To assist in bookkeeping.

Qualifications:
- Female, single, not more than 23 years of age
- Graduate of BS-Accountancy or BS in Commerce major in Accounting, with or without experience
- Result-oriented and a good team player
- Computer literate
- Good oral and written communication skills
- With good and pleasing personality
- Preferably residing near Alabang

Compensation and Benefits:
- Attractive remuneration package and career advancement
- Japanese Language Training
- Opportunities to travel overseas

We are now hiring for our Alabang Office. Applicants may send their application letter, resume, transcript of records and 2x2 ID picture and supporting credentials to P.O Box 187, Ayala-Alabang Post Office, 1799, Muntinlupa City.

For any inquiries pls. call : 807-5521 **(look for Ms. Rose Velarde)**
You may also send your resume (TEXT format only) through e-mail at ***jobs@aptiphils.com***
Visit our Homepage URL: ***http://www.aptiphils.com***

MANAGERIAL

CHATEAU 1771
ORTIGAS CENTER • MALATE

Group of Restaurants
announces its openings for its expansion in Makati

To work in a restaurant is a "high calling",
because we are always expected to give of ourselves and more.
In simple terms, we eat challenges for breakfast.

RESTAURANT OPERATIONS MANAGERS
- College graduate, ideally HRA/HRM.
- At least 2 years experience in the same position or 3 years experience as an Asst. Manager in a fine dining restaurant.

RESTAURANT SERVICE MANAGERS
- College graduate, ideally HRA/HRM
- At least 2 years experience as a Junior Manager or 3 years as a Senior Supervisor in a fine dining restaurant

COOKS WITH A PASSION FOR LIFE, FOR FOOD
- College graduate or its equivalent in work experience.

ASPIRING CHEFS
- Experienced COOKS who are college graduates.
- Not afraid of "storms". Food lovers. Not a Math-hater.
- If you're a culinary graduate, you must also be a college graduate.

GUEST SERVICE OFFICERS
- College graduates to be trained in BANQUET SALES, MARKETING, & CUSTOMER RELATIONS. Hindi galit o takot sa mundo.

TRAINEES FOR PROFESSIONAL RESTAURANT STAFF
- College graduate, ideally HRA/HRM, or its equivalent in work experience
- To be trained as SERVERS, CASHIERS, RECEPTIONISTS, & KITCHEN HELPERS

****

Candidates must be willing to undergo 4-6 months of extensive training in all aspects of our operations, especially for leadership positions.

Qualified applicants may send their resume, 2x2 ID photo, transcript of records, certificates of employment or clearance from previous employers to:

HRD DEPARTMENT
1771 M. Adriatico St.,
Malate, Manila

* Positions available up to February 15, 2002
* Anticipated March graduates are welcome to apply.

UPLiFT *Philippines*

URBAN PROGRAM FOR LIVELIHOOD FINANCE & TRAINING (UPLIFT)

A Filipino Non-Government Organization specialized in Micro-Finance with community-based programs in Caloocan, Manila, Quezon Cities and Bulacan and a Network of 10 NGOs operating in Manila and provinces, is in need of:

NETWORK I.T. OFFICER **(ref. ITO)**
- ☐ Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- ☐ Provide technical assistance to Network NGOs with loans and saving system.
- ☐ Knowledge in accounting is an advantage
- ☐ Enthusiastic, capacity to work with a team

NETWORK FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR (ref. FAC)
- ☐ Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- ☐ Responsible in sourcing funds for the Network and its members
- ☐ Responsible in overseeing the financial situation of the Network and its members
- ☐ Works together with Fin-admin Manager in establishing Financial Statements

1 NETWORK TRAINING COORDINATOR + 1 UPLiFT COORDINATOR (Manila)
(ref. NTC/FC):
- ☐ College graduate, Computer-literate
- ☐ Enthusiastic, capacity to work with a team and to handle staff
- ☐ Good skills in training and communication
- ☐ Experience needed in social work or microfinance in NGOs in depressed areas

NETWORK STAFF TRAINER **(ref. NST)**
- ☐ Graduate of any Social Science Course.
- ☐ Experience in training and/or facilitating seminar, in designing modules
- ☐ Enthusiastic, capacity to work in a team
- ☐ Good interpersonal skills (experience in social work is an advantage)

UPLiFT PROGRAM MANAGERS (ref. PM)

S/he will supervise and coordinate all the activities of one program (one geographical entity: Caloocan City, Manila, San Jose del Monte in Bulacan) while maintaining the spirit of UPLiFT.
- ☐ Good managerial skills, autonomous and creative
- ☐ Ability to handle deadlines and pressure
- ☐ Broad exposure to micro-finance activities or at least social programs (field & financial analysis)
- ☐ Exposure and work in social development in depressed areas is a requirement

UPLIFT TREASURER **(ref. UT)**
- ☐ Based in Caloocan, responsible for the best allocation of funds (branches, investments, etc.)
- ☐ Preparation of budgets in coordination with Finadmin department and Operations
- ☐ Sourcing of funds, relationship with donors (local and international institutions)
- ☐ Graduate in business administration, at least 5 year experience (with good accounting exposure)
- ☐ Good communication skills, and computer literate (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

UPLiFT TRAINING MANAGER (ref. TM)
- ☐ Based in Caloocan with regular travels in Manila, Quezon City and Bulacan
- ☐ Graduate in any Social Sciences Course and computer literate
- ☐ Experience in supervision, in designing and conducting trainings
- ☐ Drive, flexibility and creativity

2 ACCTG. CLERK/BOOKKEEPER based in Quezon City and Bulacan (ref. ACC)
- ☐ Accounting graduate and computer literate
- ☐ Must be knowledgeable in mandatory benefits
- ☐ Interest in micro-finance and banking

All applicants must show a strong motivation to work with an NGO and a deep social commitment, and capable of working with a minimum supervision.

If you feel that the above-mentioned qualifications suit your personality, please send your resume with 2x2 recent pictures and application letter (specify the position reference).

Address:
HRD
UPLiFTPhils, Inc.
#172A Mabini Street
Maypajo, Caloocan City

E-mail: lindsay.bautista@uplift.org.ph ; uplift@uplift.org.ph ; network@uplift.org.ph

GM

General Motors Automobiles Philippines

The GM Difference!

WE ARE SHIFTING TO HIGH GEAR FOR THE COMING YEAR

Be part of the world's biggest automobile company

We are in need of topnotch personnel to fill below-mentioned position immediately!

TREASURY ANALYST Code: TA

Knowledge and Experience:
- ⇨ Must be a graduate of business course major in Accounting (preferably CPA)
- ⇨ Must have work experience in the same or similar position gained from a reputable company
- ⇨ Experience in bank trade transactions will be an advantage
- ⇨ Proven track record in credit & collection management
- ⇨ Exposure in import operations and development of business case
- ⇨ Excellent analytical skills
- ⇨ Strong computer skills

Competencies:
- ⇨ Hardworking, flexible and resourceful
- ⇨ Independent and efficient
- ⇨ Keen on details
- ⇨ Self-motivated with a strong commitment and drive to deliver
- ⇨ Ability and willingness to work beyond office hours

Please send your application documents with contact numbers and recent 2x2 photo. Previous applicants need not apply.

The Finance Director
General Motors Automobile Philippines, Inc.
33rd Floor, Citibank Tower Condominium
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village
1226 Makati City, Philippines

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

BODY & SOUL

Nature's Gift from Australia

"START THE NEW YEAR WITH THE WINNING TEAM"

A LEADING INTERNATIONAL BODY & SKINCARE COMPANY IS IN NEED OF

- ➲ **SALES & MARKETING MANAGER** for Institutional/Wholesale
- ➲ **RETAIL SALES & MARKETING COORDINATOR**
- ➲ **RETAIL SALES SUPERVISORS**

- ✓ Previous experience in similar field would be an advantage
- ✓ Excellent communication skills
- ✓ With strong leadership and initiative
- ✓ Long term vision
- ✓ Female

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY AND COMPENSATION PACKAGE AWAITS SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Please apply in person with your detailed resumé, 2x2 ID picture and credentials on January 14-17, 2002 between 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at

#78 15th Avenue, Murphy, Quezon City
or
E-mail your resumé to **bodynsoul@skynet.net**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE

MANAGERIAL

globalstride
formerly Webservasia

We are one of the country's premier companies engaged in internet-based Customer Relationship Management. We invite experienced and highly motivated individuals to join our organization for the following positions:

IT Manager - Application Development (Code: ITMAD-IT)

The Information Technology Manager for Application Development will be responsible for directing, managing, assessing and organizing company's IT needs based on user requirements such as software development and system management. The candidate must have at least three (3) years progressive experience in project management acquired in software development environment, two years of which must be in a supervisory/managerial capacity. Must have experience in using Microsoft platforms such as SQL Server, Microsoft 2000, Visual Basic. Must have the ability to mentor and motivate technical staff and deliver projects as required.

Training & Development Manager (Code: TM-Trn)

The Training Manager will be the key player in designing, implementing and oversseing the training programs of the company. The task includes developing training manuals, administering tools and job aids for performance enhancement, and coordinating the implementation of client-specific training. He/she will also be expected to play a vital role in implementing career and competency development programs for all employees.
The ideal candidate are persons between twenty-five and thirty-five years of age; at least three years of hands-on exposure in training and employee development. Experience in Customer Relationship Management and competency-based systems are a definite advantage.

QA Manager (Code: QAM-QA)

The Quality Assurance Manager will be responsible in developing, quality systems and guidelines that would enhance company efficiency and effectiveness. Specific duties would cover setting-up of quality standards necessary to ensure company-wide objectives are met; intitute tools that will ascertain all client reportorial requirements are of highest standards. The ideal candidate must have at least three years solid experience in quality assurance, two years of which must be in a supervisory capacity acquired in telecoms/service industry. Persons between twenty-five to thirty-five years of age are preferred.

Marketing Services Supervisor (Code: MSS-CS)

The Marketing Services Supervisor will be responsible for designing and preparation of marketing tools/proposals. The ideal candidate must have the knowledge in conducting market research. He/she must possess excellent communication skills. Persons between twenty-five to thirty years of age are preferred.

Shift Supervisor (Code: SS-PM)

The Shift Supervisor will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day activities of the customer care specialists. Must have excellent coaching skills to ensure high productivity levels. Ensure high-level of customer service during actual inteface with clients. The ideal candidate must have at least 2 years experience in online customer service. He/she must have strong analytical and interpersonal skills; excellent in verbal and written communication. Persons between twenty-five and thirty years of age are preferred.

Training Officer (Code: TO-Trn)

The Training Officer will be responsible for the design, schedule and implementation of training courses and programs. The ideal candidate must have an extensive experience in the whole training cycle from conducting of needs analysis, development of course curriculum, implementation of training programs, to post-assessment/ evaluation preferably acquired from a call center or from a service industry. The candidate must have strong interpersonal skills; excellent in written and verbal communications; smart and aggressive. Persons between twenty-five to thirty years of age are preferred.

Programmer (Code: Prog-IT)

The Programmer will be responsible for developing, designing, and implementation of database and test programs. The ideal candidate must have at least one (1) year programming experience using Visual Basic, SQL and MS Access. He/She must be a university/college degree holder in BS Computer Science; persons between twenty to twenty-seven years of age are preferred.

Customer Care Specialists (Code: CCS-PM)

The Customer Care Specialists will be at the forefront of our organization. They will be the focal point for all customer requests, and will be responsible for providing front line support and assistance to our clients. Our Customer Care Specialists are expected to analyze, diagnose and solve problems, with consistently high customer satisfaction rating. They should be courteous, customer-focused, and must be team spirited. The ideal candidates for the position are persons who are internet savvy college graduates; excellent communications skills; are between twenty and twenty-seven years of age, with excellent interpersonal skills; and are willing to work shifts. Previous experience in the customer relations management industry and can speak any foreign language such as Fookien, Mandarin, Cantonese and Spanish is a plus.

Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resume indicating the position code to:

GLOBALSTRIDE
Attn: Human Resources Department
29/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City
Email: jobs@webservasia.com
Fax No: 911-8854

"Heal people for your customers all the time"

THAMES
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCHOOL

Thames International Business School is a dynamic academic institution that aims to provide international business education to as many Filipinos as possible.

If you feel qualified for the following positions, send us your resume immediately!

Management

OPERATIONS MANAGER
- At least 28 years old
- Graduate of any foreign university or any of the country's top 5 universities
- With at least five years managerial experience

ACCOUNTING MANAGER
- At least 27 years old
- Accounting graduate from any reputable school, CPA
- At least five years supervisory / managerial experience, preferably in external audit

Management Trainees

- At least 23 years old
- Graduate of any business-related course of any foreign university or any of the country's top 5 universities
- With at least one year work experience
- Results-oriented and driven to succeed
- With strong leadership qualities

Staff Level

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS
- At least 21 years old
- Accounting graduate
- With at least one year experience in general bookkeeping

HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF
- At least 21 years old
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science course from any reputable school
- With at least 1 year experience in the field of personnel management

PART-TIME ENCODERS
- Computer literate
- Can type at least 40 words per minute

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER
- At least 21 years old
- Graduate of any Management or Social Science course from any reputable school
- Pleasing personality
- Strong customer service orientation
- High degree of patience and tolerance

LIBRARY ASSISTANT
- Library Science graduate
- Preferably with one year work experience
- Strong customer service orientation

Mail or email your resumes with transcripts to:

Human Resources Department
Thames International Business School
3/F Security Bank Corp. Bldg.
228 Ortigas Ave.
Greenhills, San Juan Metro Manila
email: cmarcelo@thamesintl.com

Where you find the best.

JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

syngenta

Philippines, Inc., formed by the merger of "agribusiness sectors" of Novartis Agro and Zeneca, is the leading supplier of crop protection and seeds products, solutions and services in the country. We also proud ourselves of our very professional and synergistic workforce which add more value to the organization.

We are currently looking for a high caliber and exemplary individual who would assume the position of

Assistant Vice President for Marketing

Responsibilities

This leader shall aggressively spearhead the crop and product marketing strategies and lead a promising marketing team in achieving outstanding performance towards the accomplishment of our short-term and strategic business objectives.

Qualification

Potential candidates must be able to competently satisfy the following qualifications:
- ✓ He/she is at least 40 years old with strong brand management on food/consumer products
- ✓ An MBA degree holder, he/she belongs to the upper level of his/her class.
- ✓ Possesses at least 5 years experience in strategic marketing, marketing research, and in leading a marketing team.
- ✓ Displays strong leadership and excellent communication skills, and maintains a positive outlook for change and continuous improvement.
- ✓ Willing and able to travel extensively, and work with growers.

A rewarding and competitive compensation and benefits package awaits the successful candidate. Interested parties may send their credentials to:

The Human Resource Department
9/F Salcedo Towers, 169 HV Dela Costa Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City

Or email at **miget.perez@syngenta.com**
You can also call us through **843-5121 local 7255** or fax us at **815-3656.**

PRODUCTION MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Male/Female, 35-45 years old
- Four to five-year college degree, preferably in Industrial Engineering/BS Chemistry/Food Technology or Licensed Chemical/Mechanical/Electrical Engineer
- At least 5 years experience in a managerial capacity preferably in a food manufacturing company
- Computer literate preferably in MFG-PRO environment

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Responsible for production of goods of specified quantity and quality at minimum cost, according to schedule
- Evaluates new product concepts for plant capabilities
- Understands cost-effectiveness and capabilities of machines, tooling and methods through out the production
- Plans and monitors plant maintenance to make certain that all equipments are functioning properly
- Maintains rigorous safety standards and ensures safe working conditions

MANAGERIAL SKILLS:
- Strong leadership, planning and communication skills
- Above average analytical and problem solving abilities
- Pro-active, self-motivated, hardworking and results-oriented
- Coordinates to different support groups
- Manages all personnel functions for the production department, including staffing, compensation, training, transfer, and promotion
- Above average interpersonal skills (with both subordinates and superior)

Applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 picture at:

HRD MANAGER
Box Code No: JM 1301
c/o Classified Ads Division
Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F, Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SM invites competent and service-oriented professionals to be part of our winning team as

SELLING MANAGERS/SUPERVISORS

- female, not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year business course
- with at least one (1) year experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity
- with excellent human relations and decision making skills

WAREHOUSE MANAGERS/ SUPERVISORS

- male, not over 35 years old
- graduate of Commerce or Industrial Engineering
- with extensive experience in warehousing and other related functions

ANALYSTS

- not over 32 years old
- graduate of Industrial Engineering; preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- proficient in computer software applications
- with excellent communication skills
- must have an eye for details
- experience in research and analysis is an advantage

OFFICE ASSISTANTS

(Human Resources • Accounting • Treasury • Customer Service)

- female, not over 25 years old
- graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Banking & Finance, Accountancy or Computer Science
- above average communication skills
- proficient in computer software applications

Interested parties may apply personally from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Personnel Department of the following SM Department Stores: (Please follow schedule).

SM Bacoor	-	January 14-15, 2002
SM Las Piñas	-	January 16-17, 2002
SM Fairview	-	January 18-19, 2002
SM Manila	-	January 21-22, 2002
SM Harrison	-	January 23-24, 2002
SM Sta. Mesa	-	January 25-26, 2002

Or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

The Recruitment Division Manager
400 Carlos Palanca Street, Quiapo, Manila

Please bring 3 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background and photo copy of your Transcript of Records and College Diploma together with the original copy.

E-mail: **Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com**

MANAGERIAL

MSI Digiland

Service... GREAT People... Products...

PRODUCT MANAGERS

(for PC, Consumer products, Networking products)

Successful candidates shall be tasked to provide overall product management for their respective product lines. This shall involve the conceptualization of effective advertising and/or promotional campaigns, sound management and control over advertising/marketing budgets, inventory forecasting, pricing strategies and other marketing initiatives aimed at creating product awareness and in attaining profit goals. Candidates should be imbued with excellent communication and people-handling skills. Marketing, Engineering or Business course graduates, possessing technical backgrounds in computer technology, with at least 2 years experience as a marketing professional obtained from reputable IT firms.

CHANNEL/SALES OFFICERS

The Channel/Sales Officers shall be tasked to engage in sales of IT products. Their activities shall involve maintaining the productivity of the sales channels, developing prospective clients and establishing a strong appeal for products and services. Desired candidates should be goal-oriented, possessing excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills. Marketing, Engineering or Business course graduates, preferably with at least 1 year IT sales experience. However, fresh graduates with strong inclinations toward a career in sales are welcome to apply.

PRODUCT ENGINEER

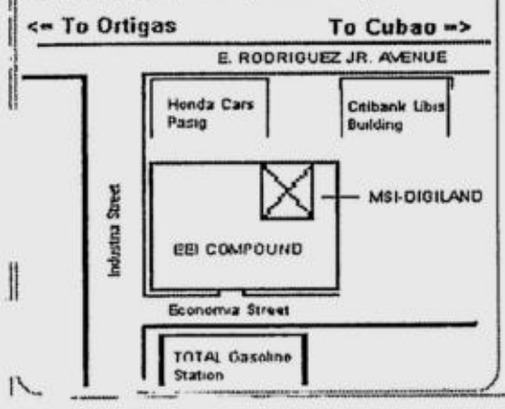
The Product Engineer shall provide both pre- and post-sale technical support for his/her assigned product line. This shall involve product evaluation/ testing, consultancy, product demonstration/presentation and technical training. Successful candidate should possess a technical background in Windows NT, MS Office, Lotus Notes, LINUX. Should be an ECE or Computer Engineering graduate, imbued with excellent communication skills, customer-oriented, with at least 1 year related experience.

HR ASSISTANT

Activities shall focus mainly on recruitment and selection, job evaluation and performance management. Successful applicant should be an AB/ BS Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate with at least 1 year experience in the same capacity. Background in the planning and execution of behavioral training is an advantage. Should be imbued with excellent communication skills, highly confident and computer literate.

Interested parties may submit their letter of application and comprehensive resume' with 2x2 colored photo to:

THE HR MANAGER
MSI-Digiland (Phils.), Inc.
Topy II Building, 3 Economia Street
Libis, Quezon City
Fax: (02) 638-4938
E-mail: dphr@msi-digiland.com.ph



An International Service Company is looking for

Network Administrator/Programmer

(Female Candidates Only)

The position has the following requirements:

- Advanced knowledge of Windows 2000 Server, Professional, and Linux (Red Hat distribution)
- Ability to implement and administer a network using Windows Active Directory for Windows 2000 Server and Professional OS
- Knowledge of database programming and administration using SQL for Windows, Access, and MySQL for Linux.
- Knowledge of PHP and its implementation on the company's website
- Advanced knowledge of Internet and Telecommunication technologies and the ability to implement these into the network.
- Capacity for learning new technologies that will enhance the business' ability to deliver work faster and more accurately.
- Willing to work on US time
- Must have good knowledge of PC Hardware and be able to diagnose and repair or troubleshoot PCs.
- Above Average Communication skills in English.
- Aptitude for learning new software and technology that is relevant to the operations of the company.

The following skills will influence the hiring decision:

- Advanced skills in Crystal Reports;
- Advanced user knowledge of MS Outlook

Please apply with the following: *Resumé with a short narrative of previous job responsibilities, transcript of records, Copy of Exams or certifications, 2x2 photo, Contact address and phone number (your e-mail address if applicable), a copy of your most recent payslip, a cut out copy of this ad.*

Send requirements to:

The Personnel Officer, P.O. Box # 14233
Ortigas Center Post Office
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

You may also e-mail requirements to personnel@msocorporation.com

DO YOU SPEAK AND WRITE FLUENT ENGLISH?

BE AN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY RATER AND EARN OVER US$8 AN HOUR

To qualify, you must:

- be fluent in spoken and written English and preferably use English as a household language
- have a bachelor's degree (or higher) in English from UP, Ateneo, La Salle and other reputable universities
- have more than 5 years' work experience at any level in any Philippine university
- be able to work on-line from your own PC or Pentium III in any place in the Philippines for as long as your PC can receive a certain amount of on-line data for assessment

E-mail your comprehensive CV to: **english_rater@yahoo.com**

Interviews will be held in the Philippines.
Qualified applicants will be notified of his/her interview hour and testing date by e-mail.

ACCENT-MICRO PRODUCTS, INC.

We are Increasing our Assets

Being at the cutting edge of fast changing technologies, Accent Micro Products Inc. creates new opportunities for the right people to join our team of highly innovative and dedicated individuals.

If you are ready for the information superhighway ride, this is your chance.

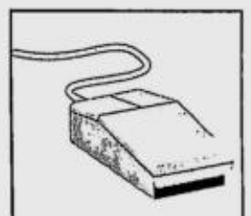
Our company is in need the following:

Sales Technicians
Inventory Control Officers
Cashier

Graduate of any 4 year course
Graduate of BS ECE/ BS CoE/ BS ComSci or other related course is an advantage.
Must have a pleasing personality with good oral and written communication skills.
Hardworking, honest, and with very good interpersonal skills.
Experience in related fields is an advantage.

Please send your current CV with 1x1 colored picture to:
Attention : HR Manager
Suite 1802A 18/F East Tower P.S.E.C. Bldg.
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
or email us @ accentmicro@edsamail.com.ph (no attachments please)

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.



Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOBMarket ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer

and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

An International Service Company is looking for

Financial Officer/Comptroller

(Female Candidates Only)

As an officer of the company you will be expected to have experience in a highly computerized working environment. You will be expected to have experience in SSS and BIR compliance, and be willing to take charge of the same. You must be comfortable with a multi-company accounting with the ability to grasp financially relevant implications for the entire business group. You will have above average communication skills (English) and office diplomacy. You will lead a team of Certified Public Accountants in reporting directly to the President of the company(s).

The following qualifications are a requirement:

- Certified Public Accountant, 30 years old and below; willing to work long hours, Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel, Extensive experience in at least one comprehensive accounting software suite (not including Quickbooks).

The following qualifications are a plus:

- Legal background and/or experience, previous experience in supervising qualified accountants, familiarity with US GAAP and taxation.

The successful candidates can look forward to the following:

- New building office, (Ortigas Center), Excellent career opportunities, the opportunity to influence a growing company, competitive salary package.

Please apply with the following: *Resumé with a short narrative of previous job responsibilities, transcript of records, Copy of CPA Licensure Exam Result, 2x2 photo, Contact address and phone number (your e-mail address if applicable), a copy of your most recent payslip, a cut out copy of this ad, soonest availability for work.*

Send requirements to:

The Personnel Officer, P.O. Box # 14233
Ortigas Center Post Office
Emeral Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

You may also e-mail requirements to personnel@msocorporation.com

Applicants under consideration will be contacted for an interview by telephone.

A leading Printing & Publishing Company urgently requires

1. TELEPHONE OPERATORS - (5)

Excellent knowledge of English language and computer operations. Good telephone manners. Age below 25 years.

2. SALES EXECUTIVES (M/F) - (6)

Candidate should be a presentable, smart young graduate with an outgoing personality and flair for sales, proficient in written and spoken English. And should have a minimum experience of 3 years in a Printing Press or Advertising Agency in a similar capacity. Past experience in space selling will be an advantage. Age below 25 years.

3. PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR - (1)

Should have a Degree or Diploma in Printing Technology, a minimum experience of 6 years in a large Printing Press and be well exposed to all printing and finishing processes, scheduling, supervising and quality control. Well organized, the candidate should be able to handle day-to-day operations of a large Printing Press. Age below 30 years.

4. COMPUTER GRAPHIC DESIGNERS - (3)

With a Degree or Diploma in Commercial Art, the candidate should be Macintosh savvy, proficient in latest designing & publishing softwares and have a distinct flair for designing. Experience in designing and pre-press operations, colour separations, scanning, image manipulation and retouching is necessary.

5. SCANNER OPERATOR - (1)

Should have at least a Diploma in Printing Technology or equivalent, wide working experience on high-end drum & flatbed scanners and be proficient in pre-press operations like scanning, image manipulation, retouching etc.

Post no. 4 & 5 should have minimum of 5 years experience in a similar post at the large commercial Printing Press / Advertising Agency. Age below 28 years.

6. MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL ENGINEER - (1)

Should be a Degree/Diploma holder in Mechanical/Electrical Engineering. Thorough knowledge of repairing/maintaining Japanese and German offset machines and finishing equipment is a must. Minimum experience of 5 years is necessary.

7. FOUR/FIVE COLOUR SHEETFED OFFSET PRINTERS - (2)

8. WEB OFFSET PRINTERS - (2)

Sheetfed printers should have a Diploma/ITI Certificate in Printing Technology and be well experienced in process and special colour printing. Web Offset Printer should have experience in Newspaper and bookwork printing as well as thorough knowledge of colour. A minimum of 4 years experience in a similar post at a large Printing Press is essential. Age below 30 years.

9. BOOK BINDERS - (5)

Should have a Diploma/ITI Course in Printing Technology and be manually skilled. Well experienced in quality binding and finishing work, the candidate should be able to handle modern binding machinery as well as manual work. A minimum of 3 years of experience is essential. Age below 30 years.

Please apply with detailed bio-data along with qualification and experience certificates, a copy of the passport and 2 photographs and have a chance to be trained abroad.

Send to:

CHAT BONIFACIO
W-908, 9th Floor, West Tower
Stock Exchange Centre
Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City 1605

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abc store incorporation

"Sending the Right Message."

We need new Blood!!! Good ones!!!

STORE MANAGER

Male/Female, 26-35 years of age, Graduate of any business related course, Marketing or Communications from any reputable school. Has excellent communication and leadership skills. At least 1-2 years sales experience and established network of contacts.

CASHIER

Female, ages 20 -30 years old. Graduate of any business course from a reputable school. Pleasant looking with good interpersonal and communication skills.

SALES ASSOCIATE

Male/female, ages 20-30 years old. at least college level, with 6 months experience in sales and marketing. Computer know-how on both software and hardware is an advantage. Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila. Willing to start immediately

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

Preferably male, ages 22-30 years old, a graduate of computer science or its equivalent. Highly adept in computer troubleshooting (Hardware and Software), has at least 1 or 2 years of relevant experience.

HR ASSISTANT

Female, ages 25-30 years old. Graduate of Psychology or any behavorial science course from any reputable school. Good interpersonal skills. Computer literate. Has at least 1 yr experience with employee relations, compensation and benefits, recruitment, payroll and familiar with labor laws.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Preferably female, 20-28 years old. Graduate of any course from a reputable school. Excellent marketing skills, has wide network of contacts, can work well under pressure. Pleasing personality and good communication skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Preferably female, 20-28 years old. College level. Computer literate. Able to do multitasking. Strong organizational skills. Min. 1 yr experience in administrative, secretarial and other related functions.

Interested applicants may submit in their resumes to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES
ABC STORE INCORPORATED
622 JTIC Building, Shaw Boulevard corner
Samat Street, Mandaluyong City

or u may apply personally at the above address and look for Jenny or Roni 532-4367 local 108

KATOLEC PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
a fast growing electronic company located in
Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna

KATOLEC
LOGISTICS, ELECTROCIS & CULTURE

URGENTLY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING

SMT SUPERVISOR

Entry Level – Supervisor
- male/female
- below 30 yrs old
- Engg graduate, pref. ECE
- with relevant work exp. electronics or PCB assembly co.
- hardworking and fast learner

FACILITIES ENGINEER

Entry Level – Engineer 2
- male
- below 30 yrs old
- Licensed Engr
- with relevant experience in electronic assembly factory
- hardworking and fast learner

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Entry Level – Staff 1
- female
- below 26 yrs old
- Accounting graduate
- with at least 1 yr experience
- hardworking and honest
- computer literate

INTERPRETER / HR ASST.

Entry Level – Supervisor
- female
- below 30 yrs old
- university graduate, pref. Psy.
- proficient in Japanese language
- with relevant exp. in HR works
- honest and trustworthy

PRODUCTION ENGINEER

Entry Level – Enginner 1
- female, Engg graduate, pref ECE
- with or w/out experience
- Fresh grad or graduating student this March

MACHINE TECHNICIAN

Entry Level – Technician
- female, vocational graduate or Engg undergraduate
- with 1 yr relevant experience

Interested applicants may submit their letter of application, detailed resume, with 2X2 photo, copies of transcript of records and other relevant documents to:

KATOLEC PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
103 East Main Avenue, Special Export Processing Zone
Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna
or email to
aqt@katolec.com.ph
or
hr@katolec.com.ph

MAUNSELL PHILS., INC. a member of the international engineering and environmental consulting firm, is seeking first rate applicants for their Makati office.

Maunsell

❑ HR MANAGER
- Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Management or any related course.
- With at least 5-7 years experience in supervisory responsibilities.
- Preferably with strong background in all areas of HR (recruitment, compensation, training, benefits administration and labor relations)
- Excellent communication and writing skills
- Strong interpersonal skills, a sharp analytical mind, ability to think strategically, leadership qualities and drive to excel are essential attributes.

❑ RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY
- Good communication skills
- Proficient in Windows Application
- Strong Human Relations

Mail application letter, comprehensive resumé, employment or training certificates, academic transcript not later than 18 January 2002 to the address below.

Previous applicants for these position need not apply.

Personnel Manager
MAUNSELL PHILS., INC.
11th Floor, Ayala Life - FGU Center
6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Email Address: mpi@maunsellphils.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CREDIT & COLLECTION ASSISTANT
- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy, physically fit
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience in similar function
- ✓ Organized, strong interpersonal skills

FIELD SALES EXECUTIVE
- ✓ Male / Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy
- ✓ Highly motivated, physically fit, with at least 2 yrs sales exp., IT background an advantage
- ✓ Knowledgeable in and willing to travel to various parts of the country

HR ADMINISTRATOR
- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, graduate of psychology or any related behavioral course
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs exp. in small enterprise & knowledgeable in basic HR policies
- ✓ High computer literacy, physically fit

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience, physically fit
- ✓ Systematic, familiar with basic office work
- ✓ Excellent written and oral communication skills

CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATOR
- ✓ Female, at least 24 years old, business degree graduate, high computer literacy, physically fit
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience, with strong interpersonal skills, can work well under pressure and with minimum supervision
- ✓ Residing within or around Valenzuela area

Send your comprehensive resume and photo to:
CARTAN DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, INC.
Rm. 805 State Centre Bldg., 333 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila

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International Service Company wants

ACCOUNTANTS

- Ten (10) positions to be filled;
- 25 years old and below;
- New Graduates preferred;
- CPA passers only;
- Very competitive salary;
- Very good career opportunities;
- Female candidates only;
- New building office, (Ortigas Center);
- Willing to work long hours when necessary;

Requirements for all positions: *Resumé, transcript of records, copy of CPA Licensure Exam Result (if applicable), 2x2 photo, Contact address and phone number (your e-mail address if applicable), a copy of your most recent payslip, a cut out copy of this ad.*

Send requirements to:

The Personnel Officer, P.O. Box # 14233
Ortigas Center Post Office
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

You may also e-mail requirements to personnel@msocorporation.com

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Southville International School
Internationally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges(WASC), USA

Take the challenge of joining a dynamic educational institution as it strives to assume leadership in the academe.

For schoolyear 2002-2003, we are actively seeking for faculty and staff who are committed to develop learners to become movers of society.

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS
- College grad. preferably with specialization in Early Childhood Education
- Preferably with specialization in Physical Education, Music and Art
- must not be more than 30 yrs. old

GRADE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
- College graduate pref. with education units
- Specialization on any of the following subjects is a must: English, ESL, Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, World History, **MANDARIN/CHINESE**, Filipino, Business Math (Accounting/Economics), Computer Education, Physical Education, Art, Music, Values Education,
- Preferably with graduate studies in education
- Must not be more than 40 years old

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
- Graduate of a four-year course pref. related to **NURSING or PSYCHOLOGY**
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate with good typing skills
- Must be service-oriented
- With pleasing personality, not more than 30 years old

PROMOTIONS STAFF
- Graduate of a four-year marketing-related or Mass Communication course
- With excellent oral and written communication skills and can write feature/promotions articles for press releases
- Computer literate
- Female, not more than 30 yrs. old

LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT HEAD
- College graduate with education units and with specialization in English, preferably with MA degree

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS/PSYCHOMETRICIANS
- Psychology or Counseling graduates with at least one yr. experience in an educational setting
- With leadership qualities

S.I.S. offers a good compensation and benefits package.
We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resume', transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo or come for testing with the required credentials on January 19, January 26, February 2 or 16, 2002. The test will start promptly at 8:00 AM.

Human Resource Office, Southville International School
1281 Tropical Avenue corner Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City
Tel. No. 820-8702/03 or 825-6374 local 106

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With recent Hospital Experience

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Please come for interview at:

CEBU
CEBU PLAZA HOTEL
January 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29, 2002

TAGBILARAN, BOHOL
METRO CENTRE HOTEL
January 31, February 1, 2, 3 & 4, 2002

MANILA
EDSA Shangrila Hotel, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
February 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13, 2002

You may contact or send your resumé to corporate office:

Alliance International/Med-Employ
G/F Cebu Plaza Hotel
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City 6000 Philippines
Tel. Nos. 032-234-2749; 032-231-1231 loc. 5806
Cellphone Nos.: (Fara) 0919-2983-961; (Anjuli) 0919-5041580;
(Mary Ann) 0918-5587539

V.L. CHAN LAW OFFICE & ASSOCIATES

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

LAWYERS
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS

We are looking for **LAWYERS** with positive mental attitude, at least one (1) year in practice, who wants a well-rounded legal practice and expertise in law positioning strategy.

We are likewise in search of **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS** who have solid background in law office operations/administration, and who is/are willing to develop a craft in the legal setting.

Interested parties may call JUN ORONCE/IRIES L. ALBERTO at Tel. No. 724-6629, 721-9283 or send cover letter and resumé at Fax No. 721-7102 or Email at vchan@pacific.net.ph.

Receptive new lawyers are welcome to apply.

MARKETING STAFF WANTED TO FORM PART OF A DYNAMIC SALES TEAM

The product:

- BEACH CLUB RESIDENTIAL ESTATES
- VACATION PRIVILEGES

- Male or Female, Confident, Dynamic, 20-30 Age Group
- Graduates from Exclusive Schools in Metro Manila
- Preferably with Own Car or use of Family Car
- Willing to Travel & Work Long Hours

The Rewards:

- High Rates of Commission
- Generous Bonus Schemes & Incentives
- Unlimited Opportunity to Earn
- Career Potential in Club Management

Apply in person from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Monday to Wednesday, January 14 - 16, 2002.

Please bring Bio-data and 2"x2" colored picture at:

Suite 518 Mariwasa Bldg.
717 Aurora Boulevard,
Quezon City

(In front of Magnolia near St. Paul)

inSync
INSTITUTIONAL SYNERGY, INC.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

Our client, the world's leading producer of geosynthetics for Civil and Environmental Engineering is currently expanding its business and distributor network in the Philippines. We invite top-caliber candidates for the position of:

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE/ TECHNICAL MARKETING ENGINEER

THE JOB: The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the Company's sales and marketing distribution network in the Philippines. The position requires providing support to distributors, market development, and liaising with local authorities, universities and research institutes. Based in Makati, he will report directly to the Regional Manager and will be closely involved in all key business decisions relating to the Philippines.

THE REQUIREMENTS:

- A Licensed Civil Engineer, preferably male, 27 to 32 years old
- With at least 5 years of work experience in a design or contracting environment, or proven track record in marketing and sales of constuction materials
- Fluency in oral and written English, and excellent interpersonal skills
- Proven administrative and organizational skills
- Flexibility and openness to new ideas, ability to work independently and efficiently
- Trustworthiness, maturity and high sense of responsibility

The company offers a very competitive compensation and benefits package, including opportunities for international training. Qualified applicants are invited to send their resumés with contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph to e-mail address: **isi@insync.com.ph** or to **Institutional Synergy, Inc., Unit 608, 6/F Taipan Place Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City** (We will reply only to those considered for interview.)

SALES MANAGER

We are a multinational company with headquarters in Europe. We have a passion for excellence and innovation drives our growth. We are looking for an exceptionally motivated individual to join our high-performing, quality driven and high-spirited sales team in the Philippines.

The ideal candidate is aggressive, articulate and ambitious with proven senior and successful sales track record in a highly challenging environment. Maturity, excellent interpersonal and business communication skills are base requirements, along with energy and commitment.

Qualified applicants are invited to send their application letter, resumé, copy of transcript of records, references, and a recent 2x2 photograph, not later than January 21, 2002 to:

BOX NO. MK-79
c/o CLASSIFIED ADS DIVISION
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
G/F ATRIUM OF MAKATI
MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY

URGENT!!!

A fast growing oil company is in need of the following personnel:

MARKET DEVELOPERS
MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Requirements:

- College graduate, preferably of Commerce or Engineering
- 22-35 years old
- Self-motivated & hardworking
- Fluent in English
- Willing to undergo company training & can work at once

High salary will be offered to qualified applicants.

Please send your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture to:

P.O. Box 102
Ayala Alabang Branch

TOYOTA

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF A DEALER OF CHOICE....? then here's the one you're waiting for!

We are in search of Top Caliber Team members to fill in our Job Vacancies

IN HOUSE INSTRUCTOR

- male, not more than 30 years old, at least 5'7" in height
- preferably a degree holder of BS in Mechanical Engineering
- must have at least 2 years experience as a trainor
- with driver's license (professional)
- with supervisory work experience
- with 2 years experience in automotive workshop operations
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- computer literate

RECEPTION HEAD TRAINEE

- male, not more than 30 years old, at least 5'8" in height
- preferably a degree holder of BS in Mechanical Engineering
- preferably with 2 years automotive experience in a frontline position
- with experience in auto repairs and maintenance
- with professional driver's license
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- computer literate

FIELD MARKETING PROFESSIONALS

- male, not more than 30 years old
- minimum height requirement 5'4"
- college graduate of any four year course
- driving skills is an advantage

WAREHOUSEMEN

- college level, male, not more than 28 years old
- knowledge on spare parts would be an advantage
- at least 5'7" in height with Professional Driver's License
- with at least 2 years experience as stock/storage clerk

....So don't miss this kind of opportunity! Interested applicants may apply and send their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photograph at:

TOYOTA SHAW, INC. (TSI)
HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
411 Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City

NOTE: PREVIOUS APPLICANT NEED NOT APPLY.

JOB MARKET
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Opportunity knocks but once.

MAMA ROSA

Is seeking highly motivated and experienced personnel for the following positions:

RESTAURANT MANAGER

- HRM graduate
- At least three (3) years relevant work experience in fast food chain or restaurant
- 25-35 years old

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

- Graduate, Food Technology or related course
- Computer literate
- At least two (2) years relevant work experience in food service
- 25-35 years old

TRAINOR

- College graduate, Psychology or related Social Science course
- Computer literate
- At least two (2) years relevant work experience in food service
- 25-35 years old

CAPTAIN WAITER

- Male, from 26 to 30 years old
- Graduate of a four-year college course, preferably Hotel and Restaurant Management
- With at least two (2) years work experience in fine-dining operations
- With outgoing personality, good communication and interpersonal skills and leadership abilities

PANTRY GIRL

- Female, 20 to 30 years old
- With two years college education or equivalent vocational training
- With at least two (2) years work experience in fine-dining service

RECEPTIONIST

- Female, 20 to 30 years old
- With two years college education or equivalent vocational training
- With at least two (2) years work experience in fine-dining service
- Pleasing personality and can deal graciously with different types of people

KITCHEN HELPER

- Male, 20 to 30 years old
- With at least two (2) years work experience in fine-dining restaurant

BARTENDER

- Male, from 26 to 30 years old
- Graduate of a service training course, preferably Bartending
- With at least one (1) year work experience in fine-dining operations

VALET PARKER

- Male, from 26 to 30 years old
- With professional driver's license
- With at least one (1) year relevant work experience

Apply in person with comprehensive resumé and recent picture.
Or send resumé with picture to:

Human Resources Department
#159 Kamias Road Extension
Quezon City

EduQuest, Inc.

An affiliate of Asia Pacific College

WE ARE A KNOWLEDGE COMPANY
searching for:

INSTRUCTION SPECIALISTS

for **Preschool, Grade School, High School,** & **College** in the areas of **English, Math,** & **Science** with experience in teaching, training, and in curriculum development

TRAINING SPECIALISTS

with experience in training needs analysis, training management, program monitoring and evaluation and in curriculum development.

MARKETING OFFICER

with experience in preparing project proposals, program presentation and account management.

TECHNICAL SPECIALIST

with experience in troubleshooting and systems administration.

The above positions will also require the following qualifications:

- Graduate of a 4-year course
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- Knowledgeable in the use of basic computer productivity tools
- Willing to travel

Above-industry compensation package and a progressive career await successful candidates.

Please submit your comprehensive resume, transcript of records, and recent 2x2 photo on or before January 31, 2002 to:
Ms. Felicitas Tabag, HRD Director
Asia Pacific College
3 Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City 1200

e-mail: eqjobs@apc.edu.ph
Fax: 852-5838 ö Tel. No.: 853-05-35

We will only respond to qualified applicants

Successful applicants should be ready to report for work by 01 April 2002

EduQuest, Inc. is an organizational partnership among:

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COOPERATION

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

The Integrated Community Health Services Project, a foreign-assisted project of the Department of Health is in immediate need of the following personnel for assignment in the Project Management Office:

One (1) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER II

Minimum Qualifications:

- College degree, preferably health-related
- At least two (2) years work experience in development of foreign assisted projects
- Eight (8) hours of relevant training
- With experience in organizing workshops, meetings and documentation
- With excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficient in the use of Excel and MS Word

One (1) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Minimum Qualifications:

- Completion of two (2) years in college
- One (1) year of relevant experience
- Four (4) hours of relevant training
- Proficient in the use of Excel and MS Word

All interested applicants may submit their application letter with resumé and picture to BONIFACIO B. MAGTIBAY, Designated Project Manager, Integrated Community Health Services Project, 4th Floor, Philippine Tuberculosis Society Building, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Deadline for submission is on **January 18, 2002.**

(Sgd.) **MA. VIRGINIA G. ALA, MD, MPH**
Manager, UPMD

John Snow, Inc., a leading health-sector consulting firm based in Boston, Massachusetts and Washington D.C., seeks applicants for the position of:

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

For the World Bank-funded Contract Distribution System (CDS) for Core Essential Drugs Project of the Department of Health. Fulltime assignment is for 5 months starting approximately February 2002.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide technical assistance in the enhancement and implementation of the system. This will comprise of software development, network and software installation, system maintenance/enhancement and systems documentation.
2. Conduct training on the CDS LMIS for DOH designated CDS IT persons at the central and remote sites, in coordination with the DOH-IMS.
3. Identify and recommend solutions to the operational bottleneck to ensure efficient and effective CDS LMIS operations.
4. Ensure the correct implementation of Project activities and timely submission of the Project's LMIS deliverables and other required reports to the Department of Health.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Computer Programmer must have the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or other related courses
- Minimum of three (3) years experience using RDBMS specifically Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise and Adaptive Server Anywhere
- Knowledge/experience in implementing IT Projects under GOP conditions
- Proficient in Windows NT or 2000, at least two (2) years experience
- Minimum of three (3) years experience using PowerBuilder
- Free to travel outside Metro Manila, if required

REQUIREMENTS

- Resumé
- NBI or Police Clearance
- Recent 2x2 photo

Please submit complete requirements to **Mr. JUN AMABLE** or **Mr. OLIVER MARGAREJO** of John Snow, Inc., 2nd Floor, Building 25, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila or email comprehensive resumé (MS Word format) to jsicds@info.com not later than January 28, 2002.

ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST INTERNATIONAL BANKS

IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

OFFICER

- Business, Accountancy or Economics graduate
- With at least 3 years work experience as an officer in a commercial bank on Export/Import and Remittance Operation
- Not over 35 years old

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Graduate of Accountancy course, preferably licensed Certified Public Accountant
- With 1 to 2 years work experience
- Computer literate

Interested applicants may please send ASAP their resumé to:

Code 69
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, Atrium Building
Makati Avenue, Makati City

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Medecins Sans Frontières, is a non-profit, non-governmental medical organization that, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999. The Swiss section has been carrying out programs in the Philippines since 1997. At present, we have programs with street children in Manila, water and sanitation in Malabon and a pharmacy cooperative in Sulu province. MSF wants to expand its activities and is thus looking for a:

Function : MEDICAL DOCTOR
Location : Makati City

Requirements:

- Highly motivated to work with people in precarious situations
- Qualified and experienced in medical surveys and epidemiological data collection
- General Practitioner with experience in public health
- Creative and flexible, fluent in English
- Team spirit
- Ability to work independently

Closing date for submission: 15 February 2002

All application letters, comprehensive resumés with a recent 2x2 picture are to be mailed and addressed to:

Mr. Roland Schwanke
Head of Mission
Medecins Sans Frontières - Switzerland
209 Zodiac Street, Palm Village
Brgy. Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City

Or email it to msfch-ph@compass.com.ph
Attn: Roland Schwanke

(Only short-listed candidates will be notified)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS: FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

CIRCULATION FIELDMAN

- Graduate of any business course
- Knowledge of the ins and out of Metro Manila
- Excellent communication skills

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue
(formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets,
Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

NEW VENTURES! NEW PRODUCTS!

AMPHIL BIO CHEMICAL

Exclusive Philippine Distributor of MEGA Diagnostics, Inc., USA

NOW HIRING!!! NOW HIRING!!!

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

- Medical Technology Graduate
- Marketing/Sales Background
- Dedicated & Hardworking

Qualified applicants may apply in person at:

Suite 708, Richville Corporate Tower,
1107 Alabang - Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos.: 809-2597, 850-1711, 850-1861
Fax: 850-1502

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

MARKETING SUPERVISOR

University graduate of Marketing, Public Relations and Business related course
Preferably between 25-35 years old, with experience
Computer literate with excellent oral and written communication skills

PROGRAMMER/ PROJECT MANAGER

College graduate prefarably IT
Between 25-35 years old
With experience in HTML
Be prepared to show samples of web sites made

APPLY AT:

2nd Floor, Phoenix Building,
927 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. #372-3550 e-mail: central@central.com.ph

medimedia

a leader in healthcare information, No. 1 in the US for patient education and No. 1 worldwide in drug information, is looking for a

MEDICAL WRITER

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- Experience in medical communications
- Excellent communication skills
- Computer literacy
- Ability to work under pressure of time deadlines

Interested individuals are invited to send their resumé with recent photo and samples of work or references, **not later than 25 January 2002** to:

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8751 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
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An attractive salary package awaits the qualified applicant. The applicant must possess significant experience in the procurement of goods and services. Civil engineering graduate is preferable although experience will be given serious consideration.

Address the letter application to the NIPA Program Manager.

Attending the Interview

The day has arrived and Jaymie finds herself sitting in front of her interviewer. She'll want to keep the following in mind.

Relax.

Jaymie has gone that far, she might as well force herself to settle down and smile. Imagine that she's conversing with a friend. She should speak in the language she's most comfortable with, although she may want to seek permission just to make sure her interviewer understands.

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SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

January 13, 2002
Volume 14 No. 45

Lea Salonga Gets Real

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The Cover Image Theater icon Lea Salonga looks foward to a whole new phase in her career with her new play "Proof."
Photograph by Raymund Isaac

MORAL DISAGREEMENT

I am an avid reader of the Sunday INQUIRER Magazine. I always look forward for it because I learn many virtues from the different articles, specifically the First Person essays. But I noticed that the article on music "Bad as Baduy Can Be" (**SIM**, 25 November 2001) was not morally good.

Please try to feature articles that have high moral standards especially when it comes to purity and chastity. We read in order to learn, but feature something that uplifts the dignity of the human person.

ANALYN L. CANONEO
294 Old Evertex Road
Barrio Tulo, Calamba City 4027

SHE LOVES RAYMOND

You may brand me "Ms Delayed Reaction" but just the same, I want you to know it feels great to read an article about somebody I've always loved. Thank you so much for featuring Raymond Lauchengco (**SIM**, 15 April 2001). What took me so long to write? Maybe I'm overwhelmed that finally he's having a good life—something he always deserved to have. Thanks for a great mag. You're not only giving insights but more importantly, inspiration that fuels every soul.

GENNIE COLOMA CADAG
Barangay 28, Laoag City

REMEMBERING JUNIE

Sixto K. Roxas's paean to his cousin Maximo "Junie" Kalaw Jr., "Man of the Earth," (**SIM**, 2 December 2001) is inspiring for all who deeply care about the environment. If it were delivered as a eulogy, it would have been mistaken for an apology on behalf of someone who began his life in the fast lane and later paused, to make a remarkable soulful and meaningful journey to protect nature.

Having observed Junie, a total stranger but kindred spirit, in a couple of meetings, I was struck by his low-key attitude. That he commanded admiration and respect among his fellow workers was quite evident. Junie's life won't certainly be in vain as he had inspired several others who continue to battle quietly for a just cause.

AUGUSTUS C. MAMARIL
College of Science
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

PRAYING FOR MILA

Yes, prayer works. After reading Mila Mercado's story (**SIM**, 16 December 2001), I thanked God for leading me to this story as I'm supposed to switch the computer off very late in the evening. I prayed for Mila and for her loving husband who loves Mila unconditionally. In the name of Christ, the great healer, I believe Mila will speak again.

ELENA QUEZON
quezon@itc.nl

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

SIM strives to pay our valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees – and to avoid an unnecessary trip – please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

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Editor in Chief	Alya B. Honasan
Managing Editor	Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Associate Editor	Ruel S. De Vera
Staff Writer	Eric S. Caruncho
Graphics Designer	Chuchie Quevedo-See
Editorial Assistant	Sharon M. Felipe
Advertising & Sales Manager	Kenny Nuyda

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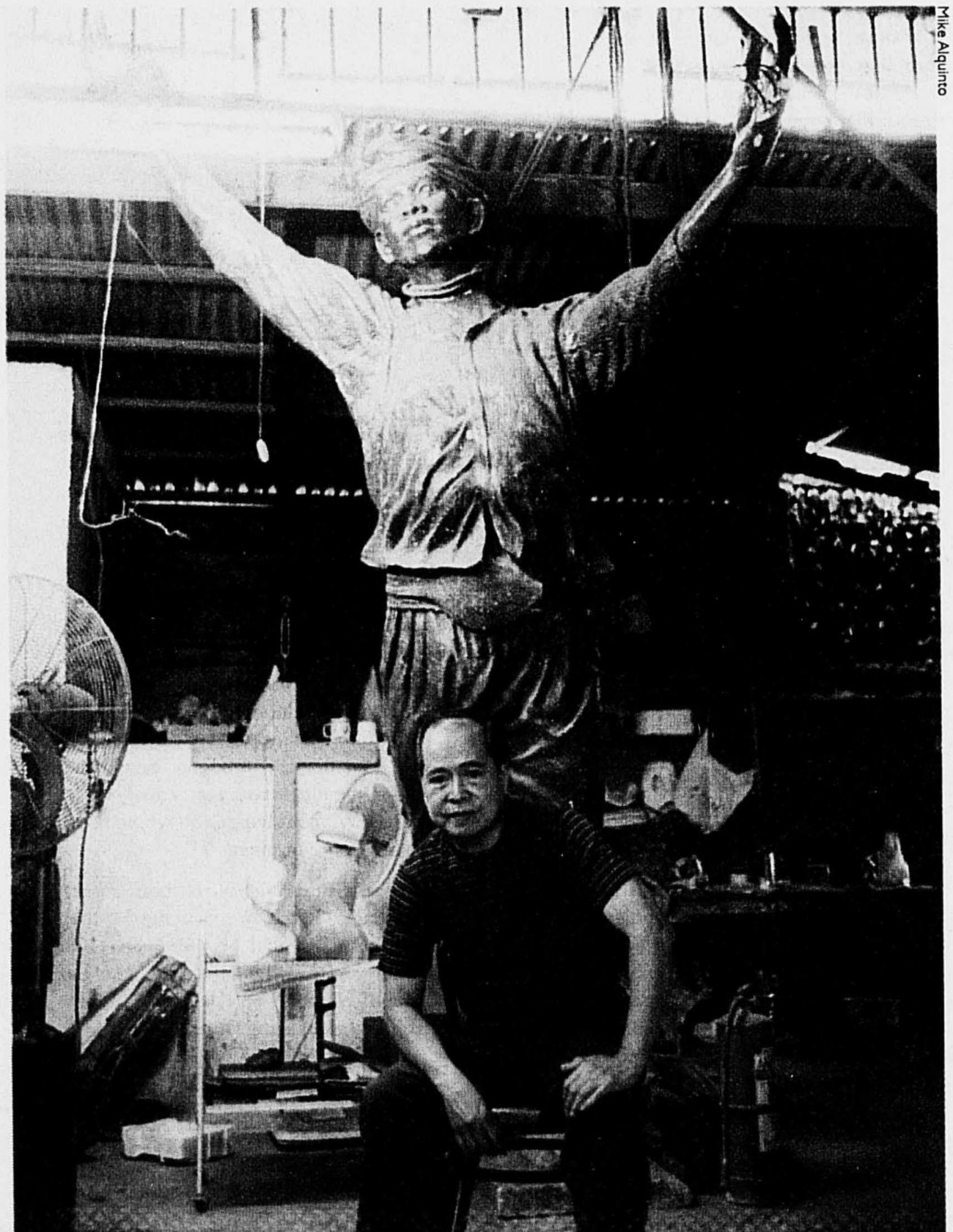
His Makati monuments may be famous, but Jose Mendoza isn't about to let these imposing figures overshadow his latest body of work—sleek, stylized sculptures in cool glass and stainless steel

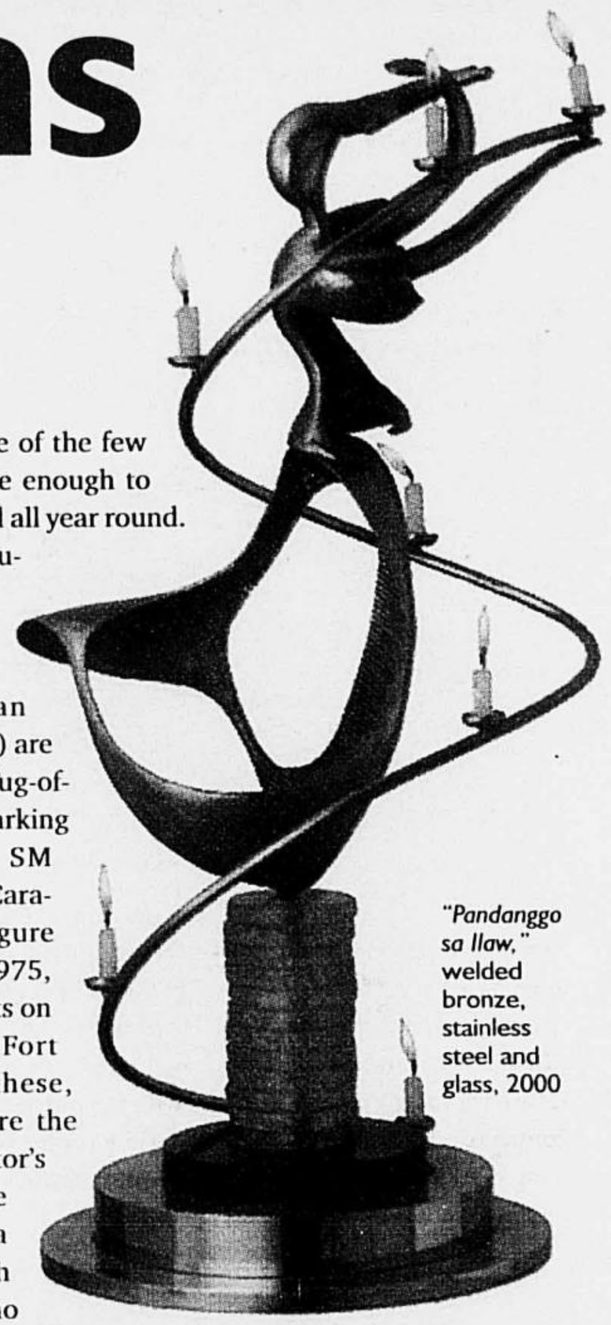
Public Art, Private Dreams

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO REASON WHY MAKATI POLICE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR JOSE MENDOZA BACK IN LATE 1969, THE SCULPTOR, A QUIET AND UNASSUMING MAN WHO WAS ALWAYS TOO SHY TO TALK ABOUT HIMSELF OR HIS ART, IMMEDIATELY WENT INTO HIDING. BUT AUTHORITIES TRACKED HIM DOWN ANYWAY, AND IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT MENDOZA REALIZED WHAT ALL THE FUSS WAS ABOUT. "IT TURNS OUT THAT DON JAIME (ZOBEL) WANTED TO COMMISSION ME FOR A SCUPTURE," SAYS MENDOZA WITH A SOFT CHUCKLE. THAT "SCULPTURE" IS THE DRAMATIC GABRIELA SILANG MONUMENT (1971, BRONZE), ONE OF SEVERAL PUBLIC ART PIECES BY MENDOZA THAT HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY INTO MAKATI'S COSMOPOLITAN CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT.



Mike Alquinto

Mendoza, in fact, is one of the few Filipino artists fortunate enough to have his works exhibited all year round. Two other timeless monuments along Makati's Paseo de Roxas, "Pio del Pilar" (1972, bronze) and "Sultan Kudarat" (1973, bronze) are his, as are the playful "Tug-of-War" in the Glorietta parking lot (1976, bronze), SM Glorietta's "Boy with Carabaos," and the five-figure Bataan monument (1975, bronze) which now rests on the grounds of Fort Bonifacio. Prior to these, Manila's denizens were the first to view the sculptor's massive creations. At the Rizal Park, Mendoza made heads turn with his traditional Carabao and Tamaraw (1967) and the Giant Relief Map of the Philippines (1969), the latter an ambitious undertaking commissioned by the late newsman Teodoro Valencia.



"Pandanggo sa llaw," welded bronze, stainless steel and glass, 2000

Ironically, producing such high-profile pieces comes with a price. While Mendoza encourages interaction with his art, some people take this privilege a bit too far. The Giant Relief Map's Mt. Mayon no longer spews out smoke from its crater the way it used to years ago (through trial-and-error, he invented a kettle-like apparatus that would intermittently emit steam like a real volcano). Over-enthusiastic kids playing with his "Tug-Of-War" monument have since loosened the structure's real rope from the metal figures' grip. "Some people have sawed off the hands (of the scupture's figures) so they can sell the bronze," he points out. "Just like they did to the Bataan monument. Sometimes the gun is missing and that measures about six feet long. *Ilang kilo din yon ng tanso?!* (Imagine how many kilos of bronze that is!)" Though Mendoza is understandably affected by such acts of vandalism and neglect, the sculptor certainly doesn't take it personally. "*Siempre di rin ako mapalagay kase trabaho ko yan*," he admits. "*Kaya lang, magastos siguro magpa*-repair (I feel bad about it but it's also expensive to have my works repaired)."

His greatest challenge, however, is shaking off the stereotypes brought about by his most prominent pieces. Despite his métier for conservative sculptures, Mendoza has longed to be recognized as a serious modernist. He's actually quite a good one, too: seven of his contem-

To page 15

Larger than life: Mendoza's high-profile pieces tell of grand ideas and emotions

First Person
by Michael G. Umaming

"Memeg, your Igorot name is not just a name. It connects you to your origin and your roots. In this modernizing world where one culture quickly assimilates another, it becomes a tool for you to appreciate other people's beliefs and practices"

Dear Memeg,

Illustration by JED ESTRADA

THERE WAS ONCE AN *ALAPO* (GRANDFATHER/GRANDMOTHER) WHO NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO GO TO SCHOOL. BUT HIS FORESIGHT AND LEADERSHIP MADE HIM A MAN BEFORE HIS TIME.

(Editor's Note: We want to know what people are thinking these days. Tell us what's on your mind and in your heart. And no, you don't have to be under 30 or over 65 to contribute to this column. We welcome contributions from all ages.)

Your mother remembers him most as one who dared go against a long tradition of arranged marriages that was popular during his time. Most of his daughters, as you can see, married men of their choices, mostly outside of the tribe. Your *alapo* received smirks from the village elders but his heart was that of a leader who knew what tradition deserved his loyalty. It is no understatement to say that your mama would have ended up in somebody else's arms without your *alapo* Memeg.

He is one reason why we chose Memeg for your name. He is one reason why there are many others named Memeg in your mama's clan.

But your uncle Memeg and the others in the clan received their names only through the traditional practice of Igorot *gobbaw* (baptism). In their birth registration papers were western names, which were the ones brought to church for blessing. As they attended school, they totally lost Memeg as their names. This was the case with your dad's and mom's Igorot names. Good for your Uncle Memeg who grew up in the *ili* (home village), where even in school his teachers and classmates knew him by that name. In the office where your uncle works, Memeg is a total stranger.

We made sure you would not lose your name from the great *alapo*.

In the hospital where you were born, the nurse came to us twice to verify the name we wrote in your birth registration paper. She even suggested—isn't Megan a better name?—probably concerned that Memeg was a disservice to you.

There were friends and relatives who warned us that your name might not be appropriate to your generation. I did not know if double names like Isaiah Peter were more appropriate but I was sure that their concern was based on their love for you. Psychologists advise that in giving names to children, ethnic ones should be avoided especially if bad images had been attached to that ethnic grouping.

Earlier the image of Igorots as being pagan, dirty, and uncivilized was so strong that priests would consider it heretical to bless an Igorot name.

Bontoc's Atty. Billy Claver, one of the earlier advocates of Kaigorotan consciousness to correct discriminatory images and policies against the Igorots had this concrete experience in 1964 in the mining village of Lepanto, Benguet:

When he brought his son Ayangwa to church for baptism, the priest refused because the name was not Christian. The church ceremony had to be delayed until they reached a compromise: the child would be named Ayangwa Esteban. Esteban, by the way, never stuck and Ayangwa went on with his life without the alarmist fear that psychologists have warned about. Atty. Claver, who came from a family of devout Catholics, went on to have his other children baptized with Igorot names such as Balag-ey, Duwagan, Endena, Farnaw, Cabna and Gkatchay.

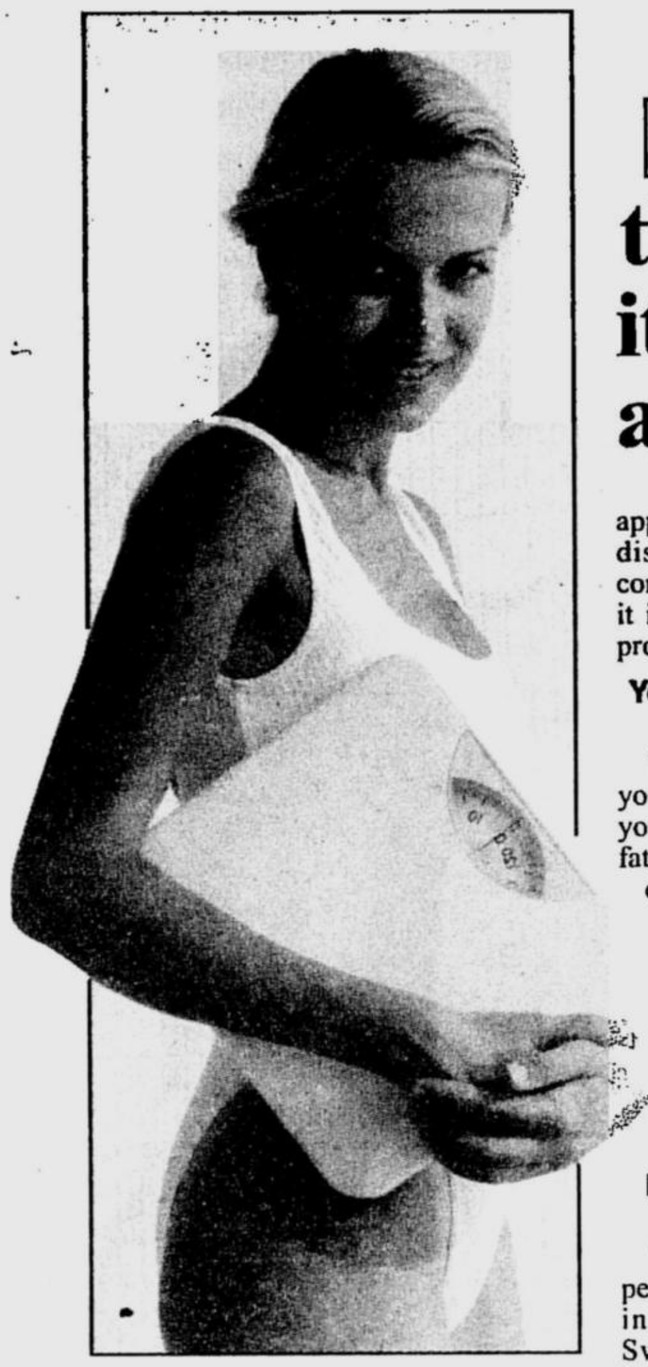
There are growing numbers of Igorot couples especially with the growth of Kaigorotan consciousness who prefer Igorot names for their children. Now there are children whose baptized names are Lumbaya, Changli, Challikis, Adamey, Sagumay, etc. Other Igorot parents extended their search for Igorot names and came up with the following creative examples: Loikan, a combination of Ibaloi and Kankana-ey; Laiden, to Love; and Wanden, to search.

Cousins Foney, Mowan, Domanay and Odani can share with you stories of how friends and classmates were envious of their unique names. Mowan probably liked the experience she decided to name her baby Domay.

Memeg, your Igorot name is not just a name. It connects you to your origin. Wherever you go, your name tells you that you are an Igorot. Your mother and I will try to supplement that identity by bringing you home regularly from this busy city that has become our economic base, to the *ili* where you can have a better feel of your roots. We will tell you the stories of the *alapo* and promise to expose you to their songs and dances. We will try to discover with you the vanishing traditions of our ancestors including those that your *alapo* Memeg defied. We will tell you stories of Igorot heroes like Alfredo Lam-en who became a symbol of Igorot pride when our collective ego as a people was under attack by that infamous "Igorots Are Not Filipinos" book by Carlos P. Romulo; Macli-ing Dulag who stood for the Igorots' rights to ancestral domain; Pedro Dungoc, the man behind Macli-ing who later died in the jungle as a nationalist revolutionary; and a white Igorot named William Henry Scott whose books helped catalyze Igorot rights and consciousness.

It is important that you know and appreciate your roots. In this modernizing world, where one culture quickly assimilates another, it becomes a tool for you to appreciate other people's beliefs and practices. It becomes a tool for you to understand that life is not just about malls, computers and cellphones. It becomes a tool for you to become a better citizen of a globalizing world.

And this, my son, is the spirit of your and your *ading* (younger sibling) Cammolo's names.



SURVEY ON A DISCOVERY

LOSE WEIGHT The amazing enzyme that "eats" 900 times its weight in fat, is it really the only means to lose weight with absolute certitude ? (...and without dieting)

Are you one of these women who after trying several methods, diets or other slimming products have not lost weight or have always recovered their lose kilos? If your response is yes, below is a great news for you — to obtain at last the silhouette that you dream of.

In 2 minutes you will understand why you could already have absolute certainty in losing 8 kilos during the first 2 weeks. And during the whole time that you lose weight:

- you will never be hungry.
- you will not have any diets to follow.
- no exercise to do.
- no sacrifice whatsoever.

Perhaps you have heard it already. Some German researchers have discovered an enzyme that "eats" nine hundred times (900X) its weight in fat: Bromeline. To say its another way, when you eat a gram of Bromeline, this Bromeline "eats" 900 grams of bad fat.

What is it really all about?

It's about an enzyme (Bromeline) which is a 100% natural substance. It is found in certain exotic fruits particularly in pineapples.

You have probably read in the newspapers that if you eat 10 to12 pine-apples a day you lose weight in front of your friends' eyes (it is.scientifically proven). But it is impossible to eat so many pineapples. The amazing discovery is that these researchers have isolated the enzyme contained in pine-apples (Bromeline) and by a process of distillation, they have succeeded in concentrating this enzyme and to present it in the form of tablets. The slimming properties are thus 100% intact.

You lose weight even if you eat too much.

These pineapple Bromeline tablets that you can now receive for a free trial, forces your organism to dissolve all the excess fat. It is interesting to know that 6 tablets contain the slimming properties of 12 whole pineapples.

As a consequence, even if you continue to eat as before, even if you eat too much, you are literally obliged to lose your excess kilos. You will lose at least 8 kilos during the first 2 weeks. And 3 kilos, at least, for each week that follows.

Here is the proof of 364 people who cannot lose weight

Tests have been conducted on 364 people who cannot lose weight. And this, in several countries: notably in Switzerland, Germany... and in the United States where people are reputed to be particularly big.

The result? A constant and rapid weight loss was seen in people who needed to lose between 10 and 15 kilos. And this, even when the people continued to eat the way they did normally.

Even those to whom nothing, absolutely nothing, has worked to make them lose weight; even those people who thought their case was special or hereditary have lost their excess kilos. This is the reason why I can allow myself to offer you what I am offering you now. The average weight loss of these tested people vary between 590 grams and 970 grams per day. Therefore, almost 1 kilo per day.

The more you have excess kilos, the more you lose weight.

Since June 1990, Bromeline tablets are commercialized in the West. And since, the demand has not ceased to augment. The people who lose weight this way surprise their entourage by their rapid weight loss. News through word-of-mouth spreads very rapidly and all those who have weight to lose want to try.

Is it a miracle? NO. It is scientific. So why does it seem to be miraculous? Simply because, perhaps for the first time, you can lose weight without changing anything in your eating habits or in your lifestyle. You eat what you like, as much as you like. And you lose weight anyway. The results are seen from the very first two days. And the more you have excess kilos to lose, the more weight you lose.

How does it work?

All you have to do is to take 2 pine-apple Bromeline 15 mins. before meal 3 times a day.

A normal treatment lasts 1 week. As a consequence, if you take the tablets as indicated during 1 week you lose at least 3 kilos.

The reinforced treatment lasts 5 weeks. By taking the tablets as indicated during 5 weeks, you lose at least 15 kilos.

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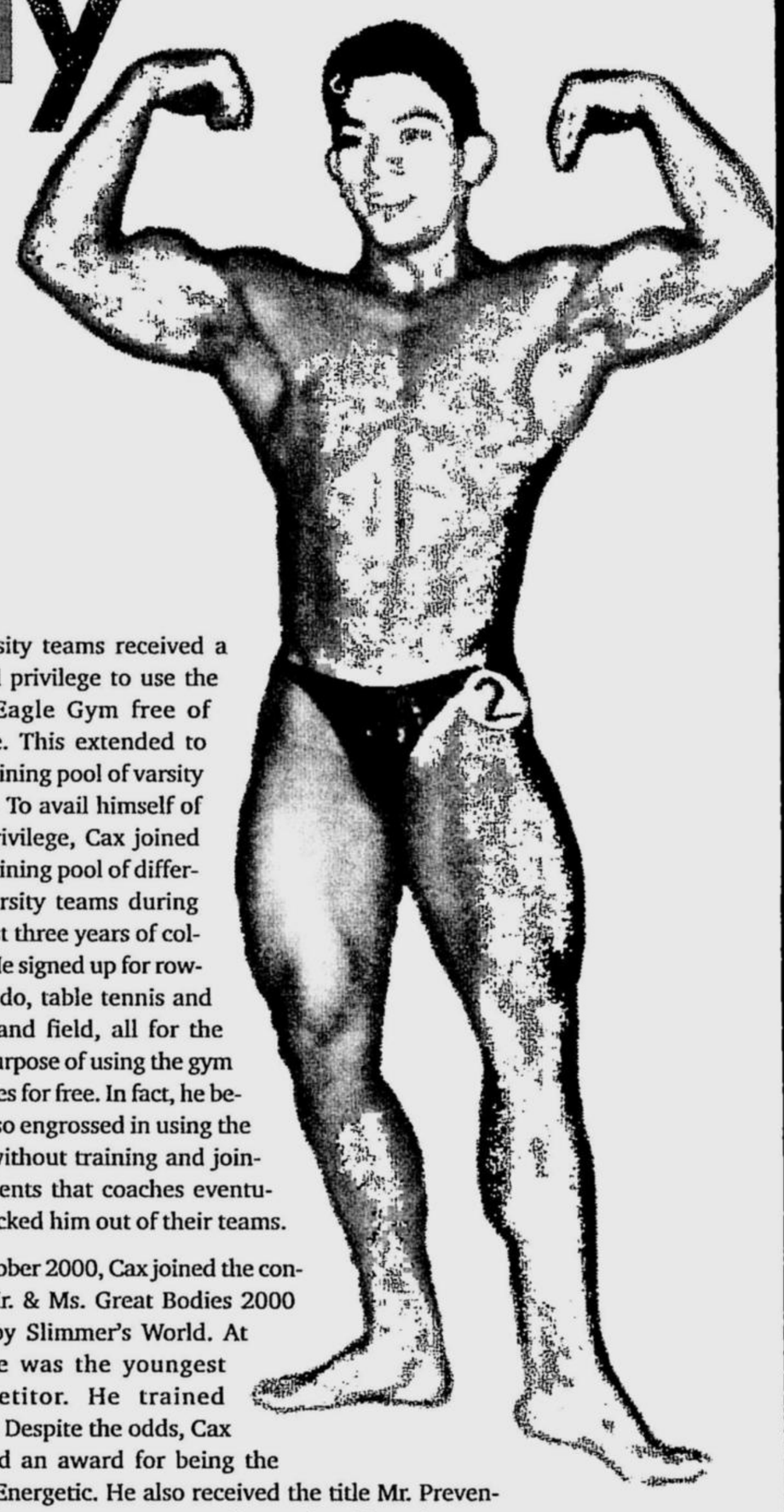
All in the Game
by Cesar Miguel Escaño

Cax Mayuga maintained the unusual balance of being a student and a successful bodybuilder

Sound Mind, Sound Body



CAX MAYUGA IS CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO LIFESTYLES: THAT OF A BODYBUILDER AND BEING A STUDENT. IF HE HAD HIS WAY, HE WOULD BE BOTH. BUT SINCE THE TWO ARE HARDLY COMPATIBLE, CAX JUGGLES HIS TIME AS BEST AS HE CAN AS HE TRIES TO MUSCLE HIS WAY TO GRADUATION.

Aside from attending daily gym workouts, Cax followed a strict diet regimen. The menu included tuna, potatoes, sweet potatoes–and a dozen hard-boiled eggs

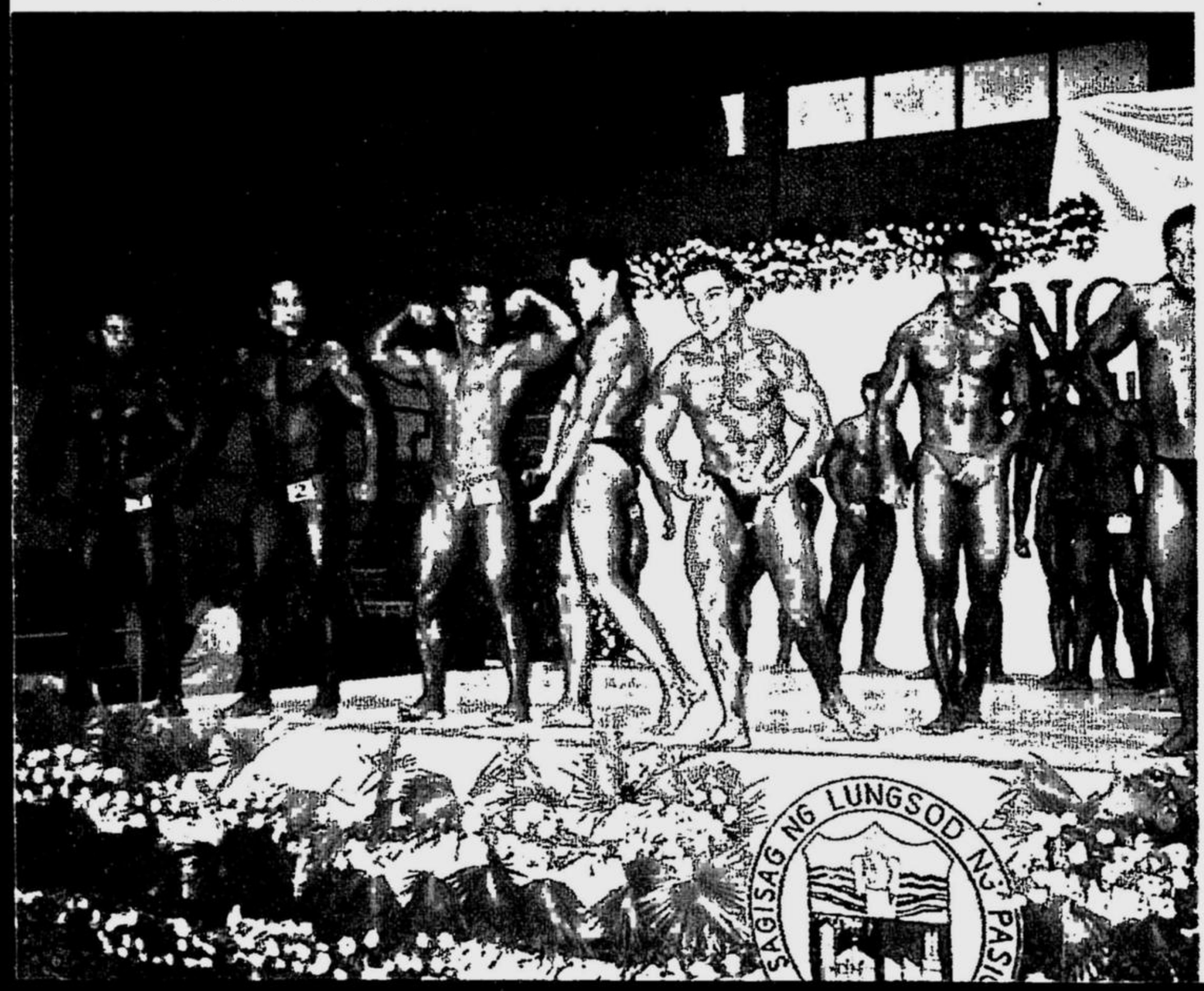
At 21, this Management of Communications Technology senior at the Ateneo de Manila University is already an accomplished bodybuilder, having won awards and looking in good shape to win more. Bodybuilding is neither sport nor hobby, says Cax. "I consider it a passion, something I love doing."

Cax started weightlifting in fourth year high school. After a US visit made him overweight, he enlisted some friends to help him drop some pounds. They soon became regulars, with Cax spending the most time at the gym after classes ended. The hours he spent lifting weights and doing bench presses gradually showed in his physique. His gym mates even encouraged him to try joining bodybuilding contests. Though he didn't at that point, he admits thinking, "Maybe I can join those things."

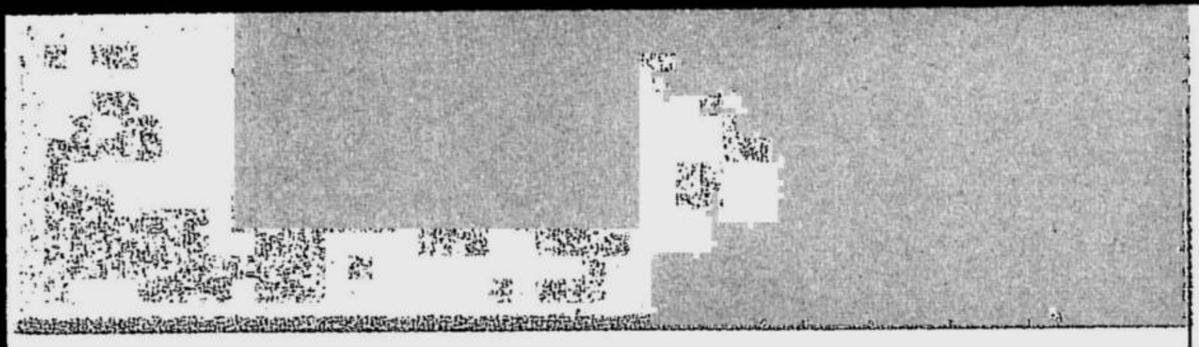
In college, Cax devised plans to keep in shape and, at the same time, save on monthly gym membership dues. Athletes who belonged to varsity teams received a special privilege to use the Blue Eagle Gym free of charge. This extended to the training pool of varsity teams. To avail himself of this privilege, Cax joined the training pool of different varsity teams during his first three years of college. He signed up for rowing, judo, table tennis and track and field, all for the sole purpose of using the gym facilities for free. In fact, he became so engrossed in using the gym without training and joining events that coaches eventually kicked him out of their teams.

In October 2000, Cax joined the contest Mr. & Ms. Great Bodies 2000 held by Slimmer's World. At 20, he was the youngest competitor. He trained alone. Despite the odds, Cax bagged an award for being the Most Energetic. He also received the title Mr. Prevention from an event sponsor, Prevention Magazine.

Rica Velasco, a previous winner of other bodybuilding contests, approached Cax after the event and offered to become his personal trainer. "Cax has the right genetics and metabolism. His muscles would really show if he had more bulk in his body," Rica explains.



Cax (fifth from left) and other bodybuilders strut their stuff on stage



Months of rigorous training followed. Aside from attending daily gym workouts, Cax followed a strict diet regimen. The menu included tuna, potatoes and sweet potatoes. Served during breakfast were a dozen hard-boiled eggs. To help him adjust to his diet, his family tried eating the same food he did. "But only for a while. *Hindi rin nila nakayanan,"* Cax relates. "After eating, they'd go upstairs and eat chocolate in their rooms."

Cax made radical changes in his lifestyle to accommodate his academics and his fitness programs. He dropped all his school organizations and rearranged his class schedule to fit in enough time for studying, maintaining his diet, and working out at the gym. A typical day started at 6 a.m. and wound up at 10 p.m. and included time for homework and library forays.

While his ascetic lifestyle avoided conflicts between academics and bodybuilding, there were occasional hitches. Exams and projects sometimes robbed him of time spent inside the gym, while intensive physical training in the weeks leading to a competition affected his studies. His diet also underwent drastic changes. Cax explains that energy is lowest during serious training. "It's hard to study with no energy," says Cax. "You get really hungry."

But his single-mindedness have reaped rewards for him. He grabbed the bronze in the Ginoong Pasig Bodybuilding Competition last July. A little over a month later, he topped this showing by winning his first gold in the novice class of the First Ginoong Novaliches Bodybuilding Contest last August. Cax was the youngest competitor in both contests. However, age is a non-factor during the contest as Velasco points out. "Judges do not consider the face, just the body, its genetics, the symmetry of the muscles."

Cax has a different perspective on the matter. For him, his youthful appearance actually helps him win. He notes, "Sometimes, contestants like to check each other out backstage before a contest starts. If they see a potential winner, some may try to 'sabotage' his scores by standing beside him and doing similar poses. As a result, the judges will just pass him, giving him a low score."

Cax avoids this by hiding his physique from other contestants. Thick clothing covers him from head to toe as he enters backstage. He sheds his disguise only when it is time for him to pour oil on himself and step onstage. By that time, it is too late to single him out. "They get surprised when I get out on stage," says Cax. He follows a similar practice in school. Cax prefers not to draw attention to himself. Instead of wearing tight-fitting clothes, he wears loose shirts and long shorts.

His latest triumph came last October 28. He won the bronze at the Asian Leg of the Muscle Mania World Tour. Bodybuilders from around the country as well as from the Asian region participated in the event. This being the most prestigious competition he has joined to date, Cax is proud of his achievement. At the same, however, he is disappointed with the results. "It was my sweetest victory, everyone was cheering me. But I didn't win gold and I know I deserved gold, so it was also my most bitter defeat," he says.

That would be the last time he would compete, Cax adds. "I want to focus more on my studies this semester," he says. He plans to make up for the low grades he received as a result of the time and energy he expended for physical conditioning. Having made it to the Dean's List several times since first year college, Cax wants to graduate with honors.

He does not discount the possibility that he might be returning to bodybuilding in the future, however, but "only to show them what I'm capable of. *Papakitaan ko sila,"* he says, referring to the judges of the Asian Leg of the Muscle Mania World Tour. "I know I can do it," Cax declares.

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Changing Image

"HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A ROLE MODEL?" LEA SALONGA PONDERED THE QUESTION. THE TONY AND OLIVIER AWARDEE HAS BECOME AN INSPIRATION TO YOUNG FILIPINO THEATER ARTISTS WHO WANT TO MAKE IT BIG ON BROADWAY. BUT AS HER CO-PERFORMER IN HER NEW PLAY, "PROOF" PROVES, THE ACTRESS' MYSTIQUE CAN CREATE MORE THAN JUST AWE.

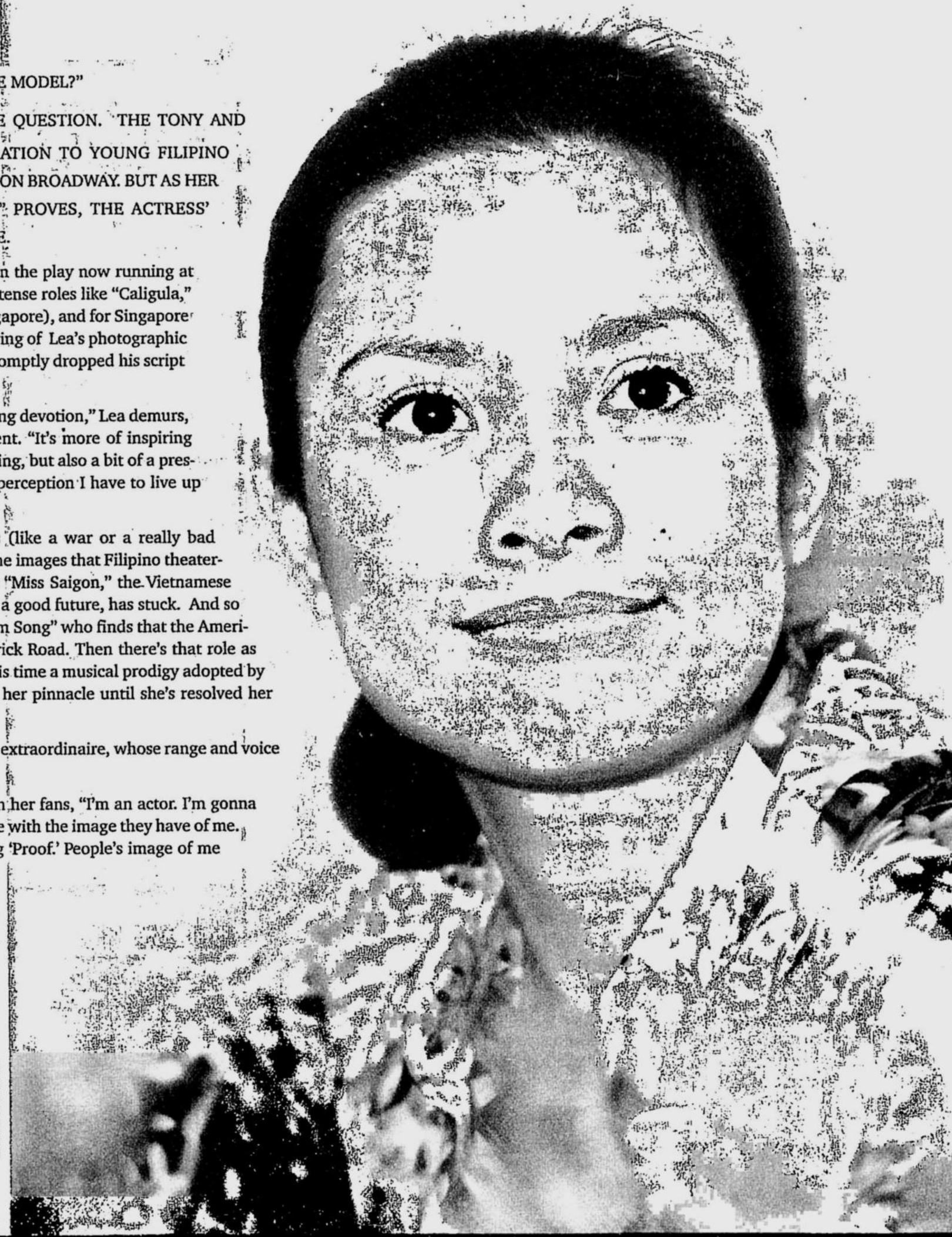
Joel Trinidad, who lobbied hard to land the role in the play now running at the GSIS Theater, is no amateur. Known for his intense roles like "Caligula," Trinidad has earned critical praise for "Rent" (Singapore), and for Singapore Action Theater's "Shakespeare's R and J." But hearing of Lea's photographic memory, the guy memorized all of his lines and promptly dropped his script the very first day of rehearsal.

"I'm not sure you can call (that incident) as inspiring devotion," Lea demurs, blushing a little in amusement and embarrassment. "It's more of inspiring paranoia." Turning serious, she muses, "It's flattering, but also a bit of a pressure. Sometimes, I feel that I have this image or perception I have to live up to."

Sweet and innocent. A victim of life's tragedies (like a war or a really bad economy) who remains pure at heart. These are the images that Filipino theatergoers have of Lea Salonga. Her signature role as "Miss Saigon," the Vietnamese girl who gives up her life so that her son can have a good future, has stuck. And so has that of the Chinese immigrant in "Flower Drum Song" who finds that the American Dream does not always lead to the Yellow Brick Road. Then there's that role as another Vietnamese girl in "Redwood Curtain," this time a musical prodigy adopted by an American family and who cannot quite reach her pinnacle until she's resolved her painful past.

And, of course, there's Lea's reputation as a singer extraordinaire, whose range and voice are said to border on near-perfection.

Yet, as Lea herself reminds her audience and even her fans, "I'm an actor. I'm gonna do things that people do not expect or do not agree with the image they have of me. Maybe it's one unconscious reason why I'm doing 'Proof.' People's image of me might change when they see the show."



Ernie U. Sarmiento

"Proof" is a straight play that does not require Lea or her three co-performers – Trinidad, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Michael de Mesa – to sing. Instead, this multi-awarded dark study on the thin line that divides genius and insanity, brilliance and paranoia, will have all four performers constantly at each other's throats.

The legacy that mathematical Einstein Robert (De Mesa) leaves his family is a Gordian knot tangled with bitterness, acrimony, and suspicion. Catherine (Salonga), his favored and equally brilliant daughter, is tormented by ghosts of self-doubt, her assured success shadowed by the possibility that one day she might descend into madness. The lady doesn't seem to have any friends. Her only sibling, Karen (Yulo), resents daddy's favoritism and has kept her at an emotional arm's length. While Robert's protégé, Hal (Trinidad), is attracted to Catherine, this has-been's courtship just might be laden with ulterior motives. Does Hal love Catherine for herself, or will he just use her to regain the glory that he felt should have been his?

Expect a lot of verbal sword fights and the kind of acid wit with which the most intelligent lace and dignify their bitchiness. "Proof," a combination of a psychological drama and mystery-thriller, runs for a quick two hours, keeping the audience guessing with one plot or character twist after another. The profanity that playwright David Auburn peppers throughout has prompted director Bobby Garcia to give "Proof" a Parental Guidance advisory.

Catherine, according to Lea, is "the most honest character I've ever played. The most sarcastic, certainly the most brilliant. I'd like to think that all the characters I've played are brilliant but Catherine's a mathematical genius."

"Proof's" burden of success lies squarely on Lea's shoulders. Aside from tackling the lead role, she is on stage about 90 percent of the time. What will keep the audience glued to their seats and riveted on the stage is the performance that breathes life and creates a human, complex character from the script's 103 pages.

Lea describes the challenge, "The difficulty is concentrating on acting, not the singing. Sometimes, in a musical production, you can relax while singing, because the music will just carry you. In (a straight play), you're on your own. You have the text—you just have to interpret it as truthfully as you possibly can."

And what if after "Proof" has run and gone, people still insist on seeing Lea Salonga as Kim or Meili? "I don't know," Lea groans in mock exasperation. "I mean, what else do I have to do?"

She has done a lot in 2001. Aside from playing to full houses in the revival of "Flower Drum Song," she co-hosted the Ovation Awards, Los Angeles' most prestigious theater event. Prior to that, for six months, she played a recurring role in the daytime soap "As the World Turns." The producers of "Flower Drum Song" asked her to extend her participation after December 2, but by that time, Lea had already given her commitment to do "Proof" for Garcia's Atlantis Productions.

A concert that will have her belting out timeless Broadway classics is next on her calendar by the end of January; Garcia will again direct, with Lea's brother Gerard Salonga handling the music. Afterwards, it's back to Los Angeles for Lea.

There's more than just the proverbial hard work for Asians or Asian-Americans to succeed in the Big Apple stage, she notes. "A lot of talent, a lot of hard work, and a little bit of luck. There are so many incredibly talented people who just don't get the right breaks. Some actors are geniuses, but they don't make the right business decisions. Then there are those who are not as talented but who are savvy and smart."

Lea cautions other artists following in her footsteps about the bigger picture of what it means to make it big in Broadway. "It's not just talent and not just always an art form—it's a business. Artists are always asking themselves in auditioning or choosing a part or a play, 'Will this be a good vehicle or career decision for me? Will this help my career?'"

And how does Lea choose roles or plays? Interestingly, she describes it as "A gut thing. I pick the roles from my heart."

Lea is more specific when it comes to the other matters of the heart. "Good looks, intelligence, stability—all that goes without saying. He has to have a sense of humor. A J-O-B is important."

Her current beau, whom she has been with since November, fits the bill. "He's very funny, smart and makes me laugh. He's in a start-up technology company. A very stable guy and he's not crazy." Then the paragon cracks up and smiles before trotting off to rehearsals. "One of us is enough."

Atlantis Productions' staging of "Proof," written by David Auburn and directed by Bobby Garcia, will run at the GSIS Theater from January 9-27. Please call 892-7078 for inquiries.

Movers and Shakers
by Rodolfo A. G. Silvestre Jr.

Ino Manalo, the new director of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, is determined to exploit the power of art, and to bring more contemporary, accessible genres to a larger number of Filipinos

Art for All and All for Art

TO SAY THAT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF MANILA HAS JUST ACQUIRED A NEW DIRECTOR MAY SOUND A BIT ODD. VICTORINO "INO" MANALO, AFTER ALL, IS NOT AN OBJET D'ART MEANT FOR DISPLAY. YET, THE NEW BOSS AT ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS MUSEUMS MAY WELL BE A TREASURE, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO KNOW HIS REPUTATION AS A PIONEER AND MAVERICK.

Manila has great expectations of the Met's offerings for 2002, starting with its first exhibit "Faith and the City," which runs from January to March. Ino insists this first exhibit was planned by his predecessor, Corazon Alvina, but "it is also a fitting statement of what I hope the Met will be in the coming years."

Only 43 years old, Ino brings with him impeccable educational credentials: a Humanities degree from the State University, and graduate work at the Columbia University. He balanced this off with years of living with the people right at the foot of the Sierra Madre, in Angono; his toilet didn't have a flush and he fetched water from an artesian well.

In fact, Ino's background makes for an interesting juxtaposition with the things he has done. It was a genteel upbringing; his father is the renaissance gentleman, orchestra conductor Basilio Manal, and his mother is Cessi Manalo, daughter of the respected banker and economist Placido Mapa Sr.

Growing up in the company of collectible books , Ino recalls reading an encyclopedia of the arts "that had nothing to say about the Philippines." So that when he entered college, he knew enough of the arts of those so-called great civilizations, "but barely enough of our own."

His UP professors taught him the basics, giving him a comprehensive overview of Philippine arts. But more, they instilled in him great love for the people's art. "Prof. Felipe de Leon always impressed upon us that art is never for art's sake, that the principles of art and the values you develop through them may be used in other fields, especially since they inspire great insights," Ino stresses.

From the famous art critic, Prof. Santiago Albano Pilar, he imbibed

Roger Margallo

The Met Museum: Ino envisions "a center of discussions on country and society"

"the Philipine perspective for looking at the arts. Our orientation, through the years, has always been Western, and it is a vision that has limited our understanding and appreciation of what is distinctly ours. If you look at Philippine art, it is not something for mere viewing or appreciation from afar. Instead, it is something that is a part of one's life, something to touch, to eat, to use while at work, to listen and dance to while relaxing, to sit on, to walk beside in a procession, and to keep you company. It is not at all costly in terms of monetary value."

Prof. Pilar did not just engage in bubble talk; he brought Ino to the towns surrounding the Laguna Lake. "It was just so beautiful, it gripped my soul, it broke my heart," Ino remembers his first visit. "And I have since embarked on a lifelong advocacy to introduce one and all to the pleasures of life around Laguna de Bai."

Right after college, Ino went to the US for a course in economic development and international affairs. When he returned to the country in 1985, he worked in the office of then Prime Minister Cesar Virata as development officer for Integrated Area Development.

All the while, he became active in the Young Friends of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. In 1986, in response to the call for democratic and free elections, he volunteered with Namfrel, and even served on its national board.

In the middle 1980s, Ino took a teaching job at the UP Manila. Here, he was among those who pioneered in teaching cultural administration, filling in a need in the country's arts and culture sector.

It was during this period that he chose to live in Angono. "Life in Angono was a life in the arts, since the arts were integrated in one's life. Art in the town was very intimate, and truly personal. It was something that the people themselves made. It was also multi-sensory.

"In Angono, I lived the people's traditions from the first day of the year to the last. San Isidro, Sto. Rosario, San Jose, you name the saint, you name an event in Christendom, they had a corresponding celebration. And everyone participated. Holy Week wasn't about going to the beach. Christmas wasn't a trek to Baguio. Processions were held throughout the year, and the rituals of life that were no longer practised in the city were diligently observed as a fact of life and not as a mere showcase staged for tourists' sake. Even the subjects of paintings were people that you bumped into everyday.

"And the great artists, the ones who knew the town's history and culture, were your neighbors. Two of them, Salvador Juban and the *kawayan* master Vicente Villaluz, became my own mentors."

It is a way of life that Ino cannot help comparing with urban Manila. "Makati's villages were designed for exclusivity. Our elite, the educated, are not sufficiently literate in or familiar with our country's art, history and culture. Their frames of reference are very Western, and one hears more of the names of Western writers dropped in conversations than our own literary greats.

"Now don't get me wrong," Ino cautions. "I don't have the holy grail, and they don't either. But they are the same people whose very lives are rooted in Quiapo, Ermita, as well as those towns and villages with rich cultural heritage. "

Not that he is one to merely sit and contemplate the sky. Ino has been exposed too to the practical side of the corporate world, having worked for a long time with the Metrobank Foundation, getting his feet wet in such nationally renowned projects as the search for the nation's outstanding teachers, the annual art contest, and the scholarship grants for mentally-gifted youth from poor families.

Ino also put up the Tahanan Shop, which sold interestingly designed Philippine crafts. "With a twist of humor," says Ino, citing as an example its bestselling mosquito net, with the word "outside the *kulambo*" printed all over it.

As editor-in-chief of *"Araw*," the magazine of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Ino has opted to present art and culture in terms that readers "would find entertaining and visually delightful. Something that they would find pleasure in, not high brow at all, and not difficult to understand. Something they can identify with, as it explores the realities of their daily lives."

In the same manner Ino considers the Met's slogan, "Art for All," as the guiding principle with which he intends to approach his task as director.

"We intend to put it into operation by focusing on art and the community, or what we call as *sining at pamayanan*, in which we intend to showcase the community aspects of Philippine art."

He notes that "a lot of Philippine art is produced in the context of the community, especially because Filipinos work best as part of the community."

The role of the museum, Ino says, is basically "to educate its audiences by showcasing and safeguarding ideas, processes and objects." Moreover, Ino envisions the Met as "the center of discussions on the development of our country and society, aware as we are that the crisis affecting our society is so great that artists themselves must participate in the solution, especially since culture is the foundation of development."

Ino takes cognizance of the museum's name, Metropolitan Museum, stating that "we hope to do more exhibits on the art of cities and urban life. Such issues as designing and planning the cities, the architecture of the cities, and the problems of city life should be explored through our exhibits. Garbage, for example, has become such a great problem because we have lost our notions of recycling. This is something that we can articulate through the arts."

Ino believes in maximizing the power of art to get messages across, even in troubled times. "Art is marginalized when it comes to development, but we don't realize that art is the most powerful force that humanity has created and invented to make something out of nothing. What our country needs to become a global player are creativity, daring, insight. And where else do you find all these but in the arts?"

For A Cause

War—and how to find peace—is seen through the eyes of a young boy caught in the crossfire between government forces and the MILF in Central Mindanao

How Harris Mamaluba Rebuilt His Home

ON THAT FATEFUL DAY IN MAY, HARRIS MAMALUBA AND OTHER MUSLIM, CHRISTIAN AND LUMAD CHILDREN IN COTABATO, MAGUINDANAO AND LANAO DEL SUR SAW THE WORLD AS THEY KNOW IT SHATTER IN A HAIL OF BULLETS AND RUMBLE OF TANKS.

The armed conflict between the government's military forces and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front had escalated into an all-out war and sown terror in Mamaluba's community and nearby barangays. With the Davao-Cotabato Highway closed, the three beleaguered provinces were virtually cut off from the world. More than 300,000 displaced individuals ended up in 420 evacuation centers.

Stoic and silent, Mamaluba sat in a corner of his tent, his eyes focused on the distant memory of lush fields and a rich harvest. Now they had nothing. Even the sweet scent of earth had been replaced by the smothering smell of gunpowder. Towards noon, someone handed him a cup of noodles. It reminded him of their once simple life and simple food. Still, nobody went hungry. Now they wait to be fed, the ration as meager as the dignity left them.

But even as Mamaluba's hopes shriveled, there were groups that, fortunately, could not stand idly by while the war raged. Concerned individuals, civic groups, the Catholic Church and media launched Tabang Evacuees, an emergency assistance for civilian victims of the armed conflict in Central Mindanao. Aware of the plight of the displaced communities, the PISO Foundation for Peace, Unity and Progress immediately released funds for the war victims through Tabang Mindanaw.

In Dungguan, Ugalingan and Carmen, Cotabato, the 210 refugee families sought the help of NGOs to negotiate with the military and the MILF to have their area declared a "Sanctuary of Peace." After almost a year, they managed to build themselves a common shelter. When the construction materials arrived, the thousand-plus displaced individuals built their own homes with a creativity distinct to themselves. Now their houses stand in a row, and the people lay claim not just on the artistry of the structure, but also on the process of rebuilding their life and community.

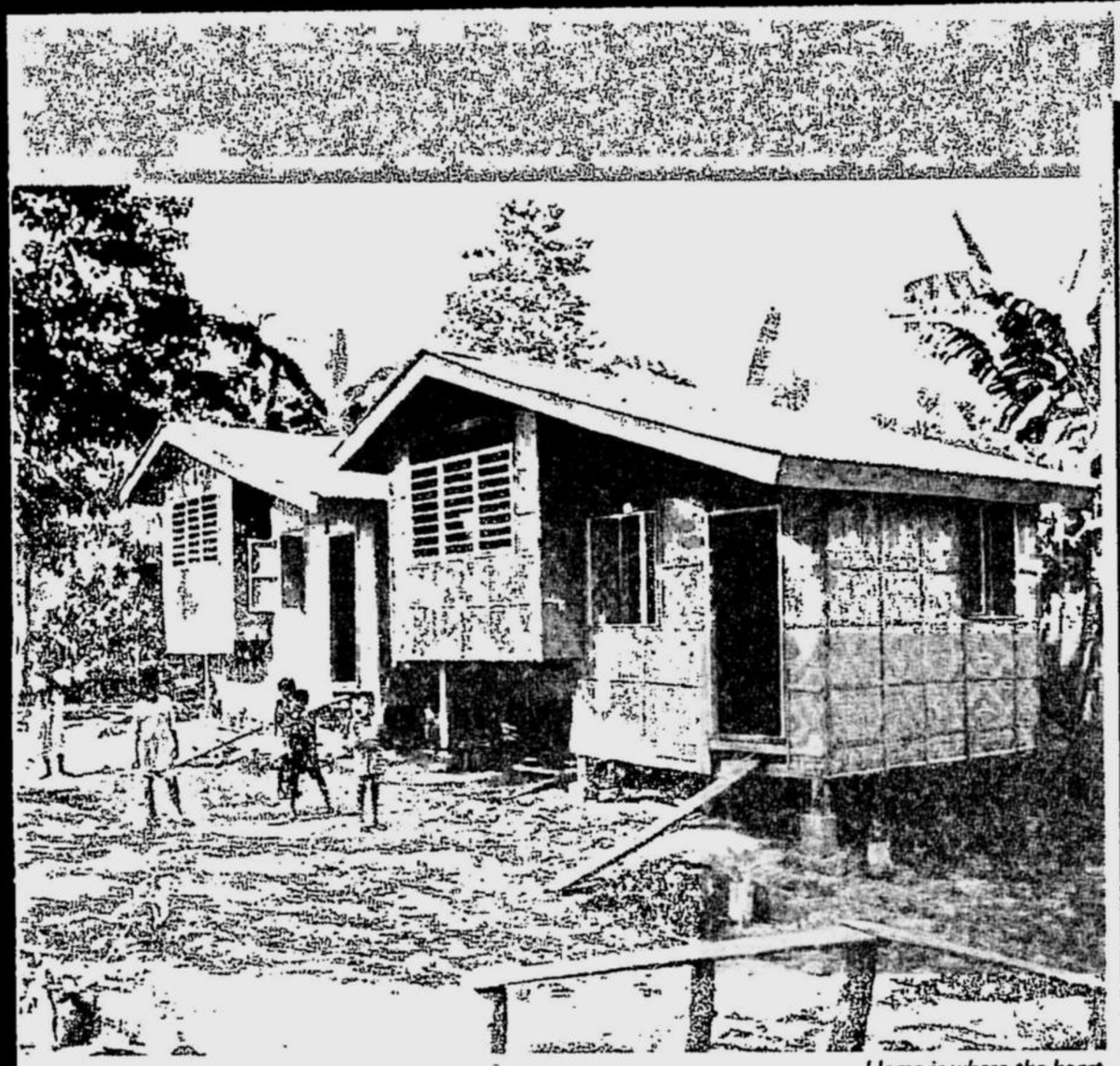
In Bgy. Kapatagan, Lanao del Sur, 75 of the 100 projected shelters have been built. Farm tools and seeds have been provided. The Bangsamoro Youth, a group of committed Muslim students, have volunteered to help out, risking their lives and walking five hours to distant areas to reach out to the 550 families displaced by the war.

In Matalam and Kabacan, Cotabato, the community formed Task Force Kalilintad composed of Muslims and Lumads for peace negotiations. With their farms being rehabilitated, the women engaged in food processing and animal dispersal. Here, the community organizer was given the distinct honor of being accorded observer status by the GRP-MILF Peace Panels.

In Sapad, Maguindanao, some of the 553 displaced families have returned to their communities to rebuild their homes. Similarly, in Nalapaan, Pikit, Cotabato, the 357 refugee families are now ready to continue rehabilitation on their own. Shelter and seeds have become available, while security and solidarity have resulted from the year-long efforts of the community and its partners.

Through all these, Mamaluba saw how the Imams, the traditional leaders of Islam, as well as the Catholic bishops and priests braved the negotiations in the peace-building process. Just as indispensable to the rehabilitation process were the projects of several NGOs, including Oxfam, ACH,CRS, the Philippine Business for Social Progress, CIDA and other humanitarian groups. The Defense department adhered to the peace sanctuary agreements as well.

Signed, sealed, message delivered. A young Muslim woman makes her sentiment known through the Peace Statement



Home is where the heart – and peace – is. Displaced families finally get a new start

Mamaluba watched closely as each community dealt with problems and challenges that cropped up, and marvelled at how the Tabang Mindanaw staff managed to craft creative and appropriate solutions.

Then one day, the young boy found his community preparing for a festive occasion. The Muslims, Christians and Lumads Peace Assembly were going to gather in Dungguan with other communities which were undergoing the same rehabilitation process. It was to be a gathering for civil society, with local leaders from the 34 Tabang Mindanaw communities, church leaders, Task Force members, Amb. Howard Q. Dee, different NGOs, the Defense-AFP group, the local government units, and friends from the media: the Inquirer, GMA-7 and ABS-CBN.

In this assembly would be the unveiling of the Peace Sanctuary Landmark in Dungguan, the reading of the Peace Statement of the War Victims, a guided tour to other nearby peace sanctuaries, and a sharing of experiences on the peace-building process.

The Peace Assembly gathered on September 14, 2000. Young Harris Mamaluba listened intently as the peace statement was read in three different ways by the Muslim, Lumad and Christian representatives of the Assembly. In it, the tri-people expressed their hopes for a "genuine and lasting peace" and added that their "aspiration for peace would be more meaningful if (they) were back in (their own) humble dwelling places."

The statement noted that "the recent war has brought so much pain and distress to thousands of displaced families whose properties were damaged even as hundreds of lives were wasted... We firmly believe that nobody wins in war. The bloodshed did not bring any gain to the warring factions, but only deepened biases and prejudices against one another and threatened the relationship among the people." The group appealed for support and respect from the MILF and the AFP as they try to rebuild their shattered lives and relationships, and called on civil society to "accompany us in our journey." As the statement invoked the name of Magbabaya, Allah and the Almighty God, Mamaluba felt that in the years ahead, he would continue to draw strength from their words.

Indeed, 14 months after Tabang Mindanaw was organized, many of the residents have returned to their place of origin and are now continuously undergoing the rehabilitation process. They continue to avail themselves of the services of the Tabang Mindanaw-Integrated Return and Rehabilitation Program: education, capability building, shelter, sustainable agriculture, water systems, livelihood, health services, infrastructure, land tenure and psycho-social intervention.

Meanwhile, Harris Mamaluba has gone home. The war has left him deeply reflective. He now understands that peace, in contrast to war, is a right and responsibility that he holds in his hand.

Emma Siason

Poetry

Crushing Dead Leaves

My mother went to a vacation place
so that she could hear the sound
of dead leaves being crushed underfoot.
—Moon-young Son

The wrinkles on the olive membrane of the lake
Mark where the breeze is passing
On its way to summer.
The single-riggered boat is moving
Toward the white cantilevered bridge
But the stillness seems to arrest its motion.
And when you were not looking
It has hidden itself behind
The thick foliage of overhanging branches
Or it has blended with the brown rocks
Which seem like heads of primitive monsters,
Or swallowed up by a blue mouth
Which is the space underneath the bridge.

The blossoms of fire trees
Are raging anticipations of impending summer.
In the distance the birds are cawing
Toward sunset and the lake's periphery.
You said your mother wanted to hear
The sound of dead leaves underneath her feet.
Here every step becomes a minor explosion
Of leaves and of time
As the concrete boulevard is strewn with dead leaves.
Indeed every step on a dead leaf is a crushing moment
And every moment that passes is a crushing step.

Anthony L. Tan

Tagal ng Paglalakbay

Kasabay ng mahabang paglalakbay
ang puwit ko at pagal na ulo,
nag-aabang na lang sa pagtakbo
ng oras hanggang sumuong ang gulong
sa direksyon ng malayong paghahanap.

Yumuko na ang araw.
Pakiramdam kong hindi na aabutan
ng hangganan ang pakikipag-unahan
ng bagwis ng hangin sa sasakyan.

Pinipigil ng kapaguran ang mukhang nilamukos
ng paghihintay sa mahabang paglalakbay.
Subalit di lahat ay kayang tiisin,
di lahat ay kayang kayanin –
Hanggang balutan ng talukap ang antok
na kumakatok sa sinukong panaginip.

Arvin Tiong Ello

End Page

by Jonathan Best

Gentleman Scholar

A century ago, an educated gentleman was expected to have a well-rounded understanding of the humanities, proficiency in classical languages, and practical skills in the applied arts. Alfonso Ongpin was very much a product of this era

WHILE SIFTING THROUGH THE OFFERINGS OF A DEALER AT THE AYALA MUSEUM'S ANTIQUES FAIR A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, I CAME ACROSS A FASCINATING LITTLE SEPIA-TONED PHOTOGRAPH. A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN WITH A SOMEWHAT MISCHIEVOUS SMILE WAS PICTURED STANDING PROUDLY BEHIND A RATHER DAPPER OLDER GENTLEMAN WITH THE WORLDLY SMILE OF A *BON VIVANT*. BOTH WERE ELEGANTLY DRESSED IN TROPICAL WHITES, THE YOUNGER MAN WITH A BOW TIE AND A BRUSH CUT IN THE STYLE OF EMILIO AGUINALDO, AND THE OLDER MAN SPORTING A PROMINENT WAXED MOUSTACHE AND WIRE-RIMMED GLASSES. BOTH MEN LOOKED QUITE PLEASED WITH THEMSELVES AS THEY POSED FOR THE CAMERA. THE CAPTION BELOW THE PHOTO READ: "ALFONSO ONGPIN AND MARIANO PONCE, 1908."

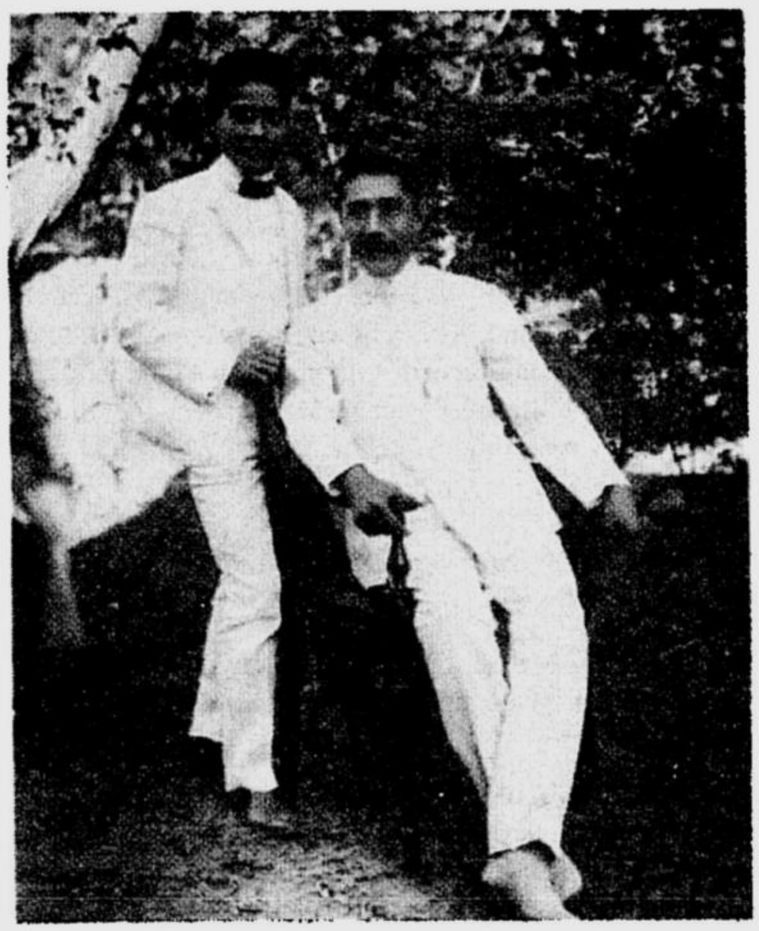
Mariano Ponce was a famous Philippine nationalist who had worked for the Propaganda Movement in Spain in the 1880s and 1890s and was a member of Emilio Aguinaldo's revolutionary government when it was formed in 1898. Like Jose Rizal, he earned a medical degree in Europe and then became an editor and writer for La Solidaridad magazine in Barcelona. When the revolution broke out in 1896, he was briefly arrested by the Spanish authorities. Later, he sailed to Hong Kong where he joined the Philippine Revolutionary Committee or Hong Kong Junta as it was called. He became a good friend of the Chinese nationalist Dr. Sun Yat-sen who eventually led a successful revolution against the Chinese Imperial Government in 1911.

President Aguinaldo dispatched Ponce to Japan to purchase arms for the war against the Americans in 1899. He was forced by events to remain there for several years. In 1907, he returned from exile with a Japanese wife, and may well have been renewing a friendship with Ramon Ongpin, the father of young Alfonso when this picture was taken. Ramon Ongpin was a wealthy merchant who had made a fortune selling hardware and imported European art supplies at his store El 82 in Binondo. He was also an ardent Philippine nationalist. For young Alfonso Ongpin, Mariano Ponce was undoubtedly a returning hero and an impressive role model, being both a well-rounded scholar and distinguished patriot.

Alfonso T. Ongpin was born in 1885 and grew up with some of the most dramatic events of Filipino history swirling about him. When he was only 11, the Revolution broke out and Dr. Jose Rizal was publicly executed in the Luneta. Three years later his father, Ramon, was jailed in Fort Santiago by the Americans for attempting to import arms for the Filipino Revolutionary Government. The Ongpin store was a gathering place for artists in the 1890s and at the turn of the century. Adding to these influences was the fact that Alfonso's mother, Pascuala Domingo, was the granddaughter of Damian Domingo, the famous founder of Manila's first school of drawing and painting.

These early influences nurtured Alfonso's patriotism and admiration for Philippine artists and intellectuals. His father was an old fashioned disciplinarian yet Alfonso grew up in considerable affluence due to the success of the family hardware business. His father died in 1912 and with his share of the inheritance, Alfonso was able to collect art extensively through the 1930s, and develop lasting friendships with leading Filipino artists and collectors of the early 20th century. He owned major works by Juan Luna, Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo and Guillermo Tolentino, and was friends with Fernando and Pablo Amorsolo, Fabian de la Rosa, Jorge Pineda and many other artists.

Working in his father's store, selling art supplies and meeting artists, Alfonso became familiar with the artistic techniques of that period and collected works in various mediums. As Nick Joaquin points out in his biography of Jaime Ongpin, Alfonso's grandson, Don Alfonso was able to assemble "the most significant collection of Philippine art before World War II." His collection surpassed even that of the National Museum. Along with his 500 or more paintings, sculptures, and drawings he had a fine library, rare stamps, old photographs, postcards, coins and an impressive collection of Jose Rizal memorabilia including Rizal's raincoat and shoes. These his



Alfonso Ongpin and Mariano Ponce in 1908

impish grandchildren made fun of, according to his granddaughter Cynthia Ongpin Valdes who is an accomplished art historian herself and a tireless volunteer for the National Museum.

Alfonso Ongpin exemplified the highest standards of a late 19th century European gentleman. He was refined and at the same time unpretentious. While developing a highly specialized knowledge of painting he remained attuned to the important political and social issues of the day. He wrote frequent letters to newspapers and published and printed his own articles. He was an accomplished photographer and was the leading art restorer in Manila before World War II. His study of painting and Philippine antiques was solidly based in scholarship, personal experience and a practical knowledge of materials, techniques and craftsmanship.

In today's world, scholars tend to be highly specialized and do not develop a broad knowledge of many fields. This was much more the fashion a century ago when an educated gentleman was expected to have a well-rounded understanding of the humanities, proficiency in classical languages, and practical skills in the applied arts.

Alfonso Ongpin was truly a gentleman scholar. He followed in the footsteps of his hero Dr. Jose Rizal, who was a medical doctor, linguist, writer, painter and political activist. Mariano Ponce was also a product of this late 19th century era that produced so many distinguished Filipino thinkers. Alfonso Ongpin with his remarkable collection of Filipino art and antiques, now largely dispersed, represented a high point in private Filipino collecting. His generation set standards of humanistic scholarship, which it would do well for today's narrow specialists and professional art experts to re-evaluate and emulate.

Comments welcome at endpage2000@hotmail.com

porary pieces have earned grand prize honors in the sculpture category of the prestigious Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) competition.

Still, close associates have advised him to stick to what he's most famous for. "So even if I want to create something modern, there are no takers," he laments.

The sculptor's self-titled debut exhibition at the Crucible Gallery in SM Megamall should change all that very soon. More than just a much-anticipated one-man show, the 12-piece collection of recent works is a liberating experience for the 63-year-old artist. Free from the expectations of size, shape and medium, Mendoza combines glass, steel and bronze to create fluid and expressive sculptures ranging from the stylized ("Embrace," "Pandango Sa Ilaw," "Liberation," "Hula Hoop"), to more current interpretations of classic forms ("Tug-Of-War," "Freedom," "Not Guilty," "Shadow," "Icarus").

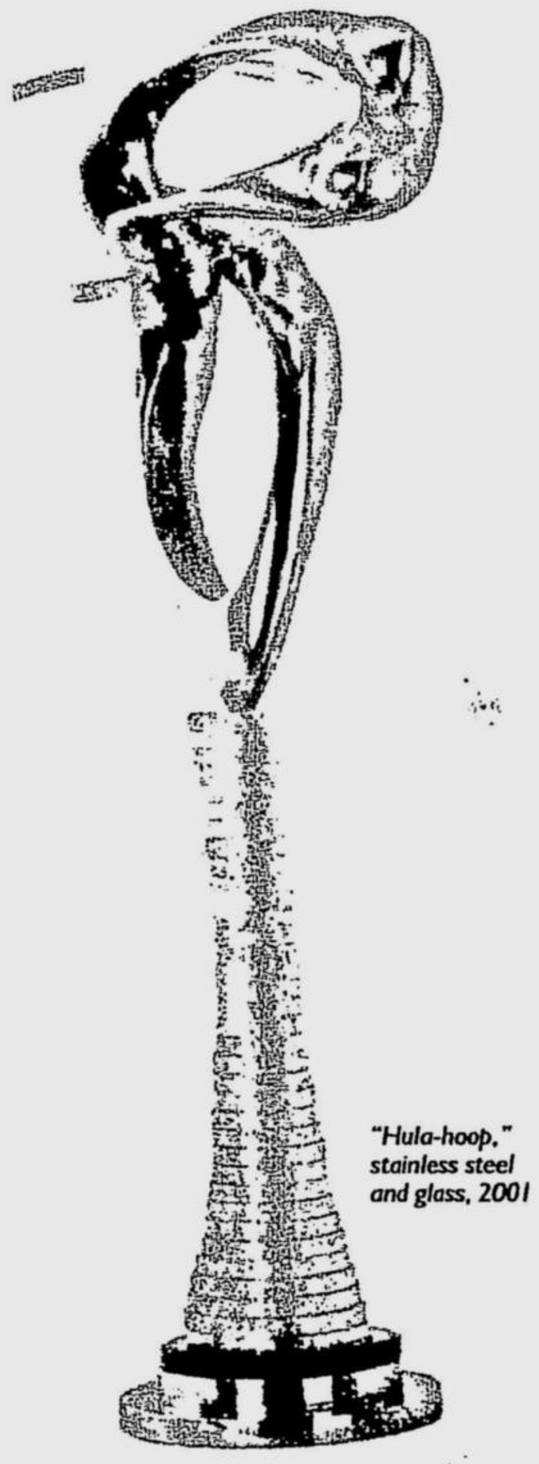
"I feel comfortable doing any style," he muses. "*Pero gusto ko sanang gumawa ng* modern."

That Mendoza is able to impart grand ideas and emotions through three-dimensional art is indeed admirable. Although he holds an advertising degree from the University of Santo Tomas, Mendoza, the son of a toy maker responsible for such ground-breaking Pinoy toys as the slithering bamboo snake and rattling machine gun, is also color blind. He has however managed to make do with this condition. He once won first and third prizes in a painting competition, and had an assistant identify exact colors for him when he was employed at a printing press. And yet Mendoza felt that the visual arts were not for him. Upon his enrollment at the University of the Philippines, he was advised by a professor-friend to apprentice with a sculptor instead. Mendoza did, under Prof. Napoleon Abueva from 1965 to 1967, and it was a decision that changed his life. Besides assisting the National Artist in his large-scale commissioned pieces, he also helped create sculptures out of different mediums. "*Meron* marble, wood, metal. *Minsan may* salt *at* sugar *pa*," he says with a laugh. "*May* sculpture *nga na titikman mo pa* (I even have sculptures that you can actually taste)!" A later apprenticeship with Prof. Elden Deft of the University of Kansas further honed his skill in ceramic shell casting.

It's no surprise that public art continues to keep Mendoza very busy these days. The Insular Life Building in Alabang houses his latest large-scale offerings: the big versions of "Liberation" (stainless steel and glass), "Atonement" (bronze) and a graceful work called "Ode to Joy" (bronze). The sculptor's dream public art piece? "I'd like to do something on Rizal when he was shot," he explains thoughtfully. "*Pero ang lalabas na* spirit *sa kanya sina* Andres Bonifacio *at ang iba pang mga bayani. Papaano ko kaya mapapalabas ito*? (But the spirit that rises out of him should be that of Andres Bonifacio and other heroes. I wonder how I can do this?)"

Knowing Jose Mendoza, it's only a matter of time before he discovers the answer.

Jose Mendoza's debut exhibition at the Crucible Gallery in SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, runs until Jan. 18, 2002.



"Hula-hoop," stainless steel and glass, 2001

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Poetry

Taon Lang ang Nagbago

a) Umawit ng pag-asa
sa probins'ya ang maya:
ngayo'y wala po sanang
maliligaw na bala.

b) Himbing na natutulog
ang nagbabantang sunog
nang bigla'y mabulabog
sa k'witis at pasabog.

c) Heto'ng pinag-aagawan
ng mga langaw sa daan:
dugo't kapirasong laman.
Sus, at sa bata lang naman!

Edgar Calabia Samar

This Week

Art

Blue Solitude and Other Paintings, an exhibit of several large-format abstract paintings in acrylic on canvas by Jacinto Sotto at the Finale Art Gallery, Level 4, SM Megamall A.

What Do You Feel Like?, an exhibit of visual works by Kaye Anne Alba, Ednaida Marie Gonzales, Lea Lim, Elena Malgapo and Jiyas Suministrado, until Feb. 27 at Likha-Diwa sa Gulod, Krus na Ligas, QC.

Tanghalang Pilipino's "Ang Sinungaling," onstage at the CCP until January 27

Olympus: The House of God, a collection of pen and ink drawings by Janos Delacruz until Jan. 30 at the Madrigal Art Center in Ayala Alabang.

LoveLock, a hair and photo exhibit featuring the unique hairstyles of French hairstylist Eric Faury and photographer Neal Oshima who did experimental shots using special light effects. Image models include Tina Maristela Ocampo, Ida Campo, Joan Bitagcol, Nicolette Belle, Lisa Santiago, Heidi and Hani Koch, Angel Aquino and Chin Chin Gutierrez. Exhibit runs until Jan. 25 at the Alliance Francaise, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. For details, call 895-7441.

Music

Linggo ng IR (UST-Institute of Religion) will feature a concert by Dominican priests' band, inggo 1587, on Jan. 25, 6 p.m. at the Medicine Cinematorium, Medicine Building.

dOCUMENTO Records, an independent, art-inclined, record label has now officially opened its website. It includes weekly updated news, pictures, articles, mp3s and what-have-yous in the independent community of dOCUMENTO Records. You can visit dOCUMENTO at: www.documentagon.com. dOCUMENTO Records' debut CD compilation, "Uno Documento Compilo" and its second CD, a split e.p., "documentalius" are currently sold at Amoeba Records, Fuente Circle, Eastwood, City Walk Libis, E. Rodriguez Ave., QC. For details, call 421-2284.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

CCP's Tanghalang Pilipino presents Carlo Goldoni's comedy ***Ang Sinungaling,*** about Lelio (played by Boboy Garrovillo), a young cad about town in search of pretty conquests who resorts to telling outrageous lies to capture the girl of his dreams leading him into trouble. To be staged at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute on Jan. 18 and 25 at 8 p.m.; Jan. 19, 20, 26 and 27 at 3 p.m. For tickets, call 832-1125 loc. 1620 or Ticketworld at 891-5610.

Satirika, the prize-winning play by Reuel Molina Aguila on the lives of six bourgeois Filipinos during the height of the political and economic unrest of the early eighties, will be staged by Entablado on Jan. 13, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, and 26 at the Rizal Mini Theater, Ateneo de Manila University. For details, call 426-6001 local 5121 or 5068.

Concert at the Park presents ***Mga Sayaw na Sariling Atin*** featuring the Araullo University Dance Troupe, under the artistic direction of Maryo Eugenio, as it breathes life to our very own dances, Jan. 13, 5 p.m. at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium. Admission is free.

Cinema

Filmless Films in cooperation with Ayala Cinemas present **Mov: The Digital Moviefest** on Jan. 23 to 30 at Greenbelt Cinema 1. For details, call 433-3496 or 921-8434 or visit website at www.mov.moviespage.com. Volunteers are welcome.

Food

Café All Day, a new concept restaurant where you can have breakfast all day everyday, is giving away P50 rebates for every P500 dine-in purchase of any menu items. Located at the 2nd floor of Tequila Joe's El Pueblo, Ortigas Center, Café All Day is open 24 hours a day.

Atbp

The Theosophical Publishing House is making available to the public its past issues of the **Theosophical Digest and Peace Ideas,** the quarterly publications of the TS that features valuable articles on Self-Awareness, Spiritual Growth, Character Building, Christian Mysticism, Meditation, Intuition, Practical Ideas on Inner Peace and Human Relationships, Psychic Research. For inquiries, call 741-5740. The TS Library is located at 1 Iba St., corner P. Florentino, QC and is open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday, 1-6 p.m.

Putting Up a Daycare/Preschool seminar, Jan. 18-19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Limited slots available. Seminar fee is P7,500 inclusive of lunch, snacks, certificate and handouts and one-month sample preschool curriculum. For reservations, call 823-2615 or 0919-8270776.

Anvil Publishing Inc. has recently released a book by 1999 Agora Awardee Dr. Felix M. Lao titled **Principles of Marketing.** The textbook is a blend of marketing theory and marketing practice made interesting and applicable even in day-to-day life. The book is currently available in bookstores nationwide.

The CFC-School of the Morning Star invites parents and teachers to its seminar ***Laro Tayo!* (Games and Toys for Preschool Children)** on Jan. 19, 9 a.m. to 12 noon at 16 Cabanatuan Road, Philam Homes, Quezon City. Seminar fee is P100 inclusive of snacks and handouts. For inquiries, call 727-0681 and 415-1549.

Edgar Samar, an AB Psych student at the Ateneo de Manila University, bagged the **2002 PBBY-Salanga Writer's Prize,** a nationwide contest open to all professional and aspiring writers in English or Filipino. Samar's award-winning story is *"Uuwi na ang Nanay Kong si Darna."* Other finalists were Christine Rivero (*"Buhok sa Paa"*), Regina Fernandez ("What I Saw in Papa's Coffee"), Rommel Rodriguez (*"Mahiwagang Biyolin"*), Lin Acacio-Flores ("When I Cross the Street"), and Christine Bellen ("Og Uhog"). Non-winning entries may be claimed not later than Jan. 25 at the PBBY secretariat located at 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Bgy. Laging Handa, QC. For inquiries, call 372-3548 to 49.

The British Council has announced that two of Great Britain's brightest young writers, poet Menna Elfyn and novelist Toni Davidson, along with top Filipino writers, will grace the sixth annual **Philippine-British Literary Conference** on Jan. 17-22. The conference will have two legs, Manila and Iloilo. The Far Eastern University will co-sponsor the Manila leg on Jan. 17-18 at the Institute of Arts and Sciences Conference Room, FEU campus, Nicanor M. Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila. The University of San Agustin will co-sponsor the Iloilo leg on Jan. 21-22 at the Instructional Media Center, Fray Luis de Leon Building, University of San Agustin, Gen. Luna Street, Iloilo City. Interested participants may call the British Council at 914-1011 to 14, FEU at 735-5621 loc. 229 or University of San Agustin, Iloilo at (033) 337-7716.

Panimula ng Panulaang Filipino, an introduction to Pilipino poetry writing by the Pals@pages Creative Writers Group, Jan. 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Earthlite. 4/F COD Building, Cubao. For inquiries, call 417-1521 or text 0919-6318749.

Improve Your Eyesight—Naturally! Relearn to see clearly with the correct natural vision habits using holistic health methods. Attend any of the free introductory lectures Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m.; Jan. 17, 10 a.m.; Jan. 19, 2:30 p.m.; Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m., or Jan. 23, 10 a.m. Workshop classes begin Jan. 26. For details, call Jun or Jelly at 893-7606 or 893-1893.

Enroll in the **Foundations of Leadership Excellence Seminar** on Jan. 26-27, 4/F OAC Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City. Contact Gemma or Liza at 632-7553 or e-mail occi@vasia.com. It also offers teambuilding, values formation, outdoor ropes courses and many more.

Bluehearts Org. Inc. will hold its first **Friendship Climb** on Jan. 19-20 at Hidden Falls in Pangil, Laguna. This is open to all would-be mountaineers and nature lovers. Pre-climb meeting will be on Jan. 16. For inquiries, call Eric (0919-8529413), Borj (0919-3194393 and 872-4989), Jules (485-0280) or Teng (0917-2445862).

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts announces the call for nominations for the **2002 Alab ng Haraya (The Flame of Imagination) Awards,** aimed at giving honor to individual Filipino artists, cultural workers, artistic or cultural groups, cultural and historical organizations, educational institutions, foundations and councils, government agencies or local government units that embody excellence in the development of culture and arts. For inquiries, call 527-2195 to 97 loc. 602 or visit website at www.ncca.gov.ph. Deadline for nominations is on Feb. 15.

X-manila

The Baguio Arts Guild presents **BAG Ladies-Rites of Passage,** an art exhibition of the women members of the Baguio Arts Guild featuring Chit Balmaceda, Desiree Caluza, Jenny Carino and Madelyn Calventas. Extended until Jan.22 at the Green House Effect Gallery, Baguio Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Rd., Baguio City. For details, call 0919-7045191/0919-6521935 or e-mail baguioartsguild@yahoo.com.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

2 gov't officials off to Norway to save peace talks

STORY ON PAGE A2

Probe of e-mail order brides urged

TWO online firms based in Florida are engaged in an illicit e-mail order bride service victimizing Filipinas, according to Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda.

Legarda identified the two firms as Davis Place International Internet Services and World Class Service.

The firms maintain and operate three

PROBE/ A4

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2002 ★ 60 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 37 P15

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Metro cops on full alert

Anti-coup task force reactivated for Edsa II anniversary

DENNIS SABANGAN

WAR BREAK

Sunlight pierces into a makeshift camp somewhere in the thick jungle of Basilan as Scout Rangers cook their breakfast. The soldiers are searching for Abu Sayyaf bandits who have been holding hostage an American missionary couple and a Filipina nurse for over seven months. *(See story on Page A6.)*

BY MARTIN MARFIL AND CARLITO PABLO

"WE ARE not taking any chances."

Police officials said some 10,000 policemen would be deployed to protect Malacañang and other key points in Metro Manila on Jan. 20, the first anniversary of People Power II.

The move followed President Macapagal-Arroyo's admission that destabilization plots against her administration had been uncovered.

"The full force of the (National Capital Region Police Office) has been placed on alert, including their civil disturbance management team," Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit, police spokesperson, told defense reporters yesterday.

"We are not taking any chances. Ralliers in Mendiola might proceed to Malacañang—militant groups or Erap loyalists. There are so many groups, so we have to make sure that the seat of power is safe. That is standard operating procedure," Maralit said.

Director Edgar Aglipay, head of the NCRPC, said Task Force Malacañang would be composed of 10,000 policemen, three-fifths of the 17,500 policemen in the metropolis.

This group would be placed on alert and deployed in Malacañang, various points along Edsa and at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, where deposed President Joseph Estrada is being held.

If "something big" happens, Maralit added, the task force can call on police reinforcements from Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog.

The military's anti-coup Task Force Libra has also raised its level of alert, even as presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said there was a "standing operational plan" to contain any move to disrupt the Edsa II celebration or destabilize the administration.

"Any plan to foment violence at Edsa will be nipped in the bud. We want (the occasion) to be as peaceful as possible," Tiglao told Palace reporters in a teleconference call.

METRO/ A18

Chilling details of terror plot stun Singapore

Without borders

SINGAPORE—The surveillance of the target is detailed—the route of the bus carrying US military personnel, where the troops would be dropped off, where the explosives could be hidden.

The plotters are suspected Islamic extremists with links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

But the target is not in a war-torn nation in the Middle East or in a region wracked by separatism but in affluent Singapore, which has one of the world's most efficient intelligence-gathering networks and has long been a bastion of stability in troubled Southeast Asia.

The announcement this month that 13 suspected terrorists belonging to an extremist group called Jemaah Islamiah had been arrested stunned Singaporeans, who had been unaware there were unwanted guests right at their doorsteps.

The subsequent release of chilling details of the group's plot, including a video surveillance of one of their supposed targets, hammered home the message that not even their country was safe.

"One would have thought that Singapore is the least vulnerable," said Paul Evans, a Canada-based security expert, citing the city-

CHILLING/ A18

RP domestic helpers lead HK rally vs pay cut plan

HONG KONG—Making use of their only day off, several thousand domestic helpers marched through this city's Central district yesterday to press the government not to impose a cut in their wages.

Maids from the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand joined the largest protest rally held so far by those opposed to a government review of the minimum wage for domestics.

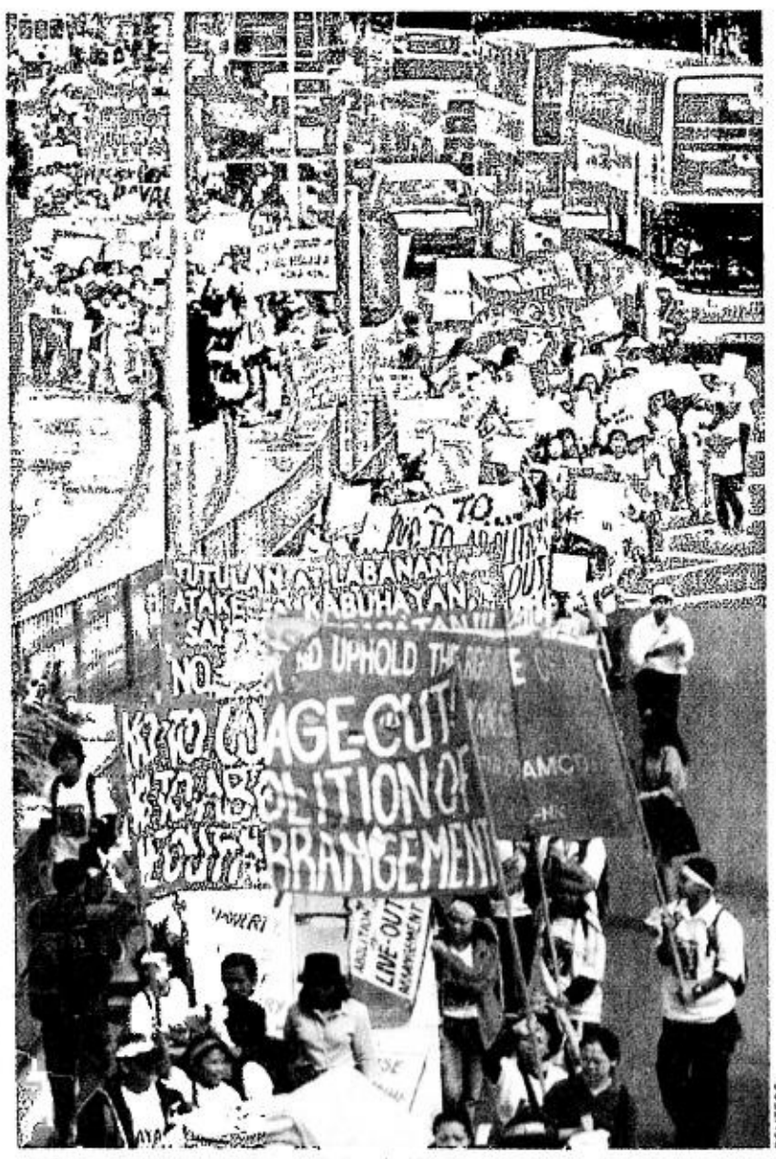
"No. No. No to wage cut," the protesters shouted as they marched, occasionally blocking pedestrians and halting traffic, before gathering in a park.

They marched from Victoria Garden to Chater Garden, chanting slogans and waving banners that proclaimed "wage cuts are unfair, inhumane and unjust."

"We still maintain our position to oppose any wage reduction," said Connie Bragas-Regalado, rally organizer and spokesperson for United Filipinos in Hong Kong. She said the demonstration was their last bid in a two-month-old campaign.

"Our salary is already the lowest in Hong Kong. Any wage cut will be very unfair to us," said Lina Medez, 28, from Manila.

RP/ A18



REUTERS

THIS scene did not run in Manila but in Hong Kong where Filipino and other foreign domestic helpers marched against a proposed wage cut on Sunday.

Malacañang reels from poll findings

BY CARLITO PABLO

MALACAÑANG appears to be smarting from a Pulse Asia Inc. survey that found President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval rating dropped not only across all geographic areas but also among all socioeconomic classes.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday issued a rare written statement asserting that "this administration has been doing its job."

Tiglao said that "despite the non-stop attempts to distract the government's focus on the economy," Ms Macapagal "has achieved very concrete results in its war against poverty and in fulfilling the very specific pledges made in her State of the Nation Address in July last year."

The statement was also apparently in response to criticisms by some groups that Ms Macapagal failed miserably during her first year in power.

MALACAÑANG/ A18

President fails to impress urban middle class

BY AMANDO DORONILA

THE PARADOX of President Macapagal-Arroyo is not that she is the victim of undeserved coup plot speculations but that there is an uneasy relationship between her and her natural constituency—the urban middle class.

ANALYSIS

I got this sense after she spoke at the conference of Philippine Forum 2002 on Saturday in which she unreeled cold statistics indicating the accomplishments of her year-old administration.

The forum is an organization of business, political, cultural and social leaders of the middle class under 50 years of age. Its convenor is Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

The group tags itself as the "successor generation" and the agenda of the 2002 Forum is what it is going to do to implement their aspirations and to take their destiny, and that of the nation, in their hands.

The President's speech failed to impress them and left them cold and uninspired. It failed to lift their spirits and fire their imagination.

In that forum, which virtually composes the Manila economic, social and cultural elite, the

PRESIDENT/ A19

Strange creatures alarm Aetas

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN MARCELINO, Zambales—Five "huge, black creatures" have dwelled in the Tikis River in the former mining village of Buhawen here, stirring fears among Aeta families living in the village.

The Aetas' oral history has no account of giant fish or strange mammals thriving in the tribe's indigenous habitat.

"There! Look there! One is appearing now from the bushes on the northern side!" yelled Joel Serrano, a village councilman, whose hut in Sitio Labuan in Buhawen overlooks the river.

On Saturday, at 1:45 p.m., the strange creatures were seen swimming in the river below Labuan, which is enclosed by tall, thick bushes.

Observed with bare eyes from a hill some 300 meters west of the

STRANGE/ A18

Second FRONT PAGE

Gov't moves to save peace talks

Bello, Braganza sent to Norway for 'back-channel' talks with NDF

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE GOVERNMENT has dispatched its peace negotiators to Norway to conduct "back-channel" talks with the communist National Democratic Front.

The President wants to keep communication lines open with the NDF with the view of reaching a comprehensive peace agreement in the future, said presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

"The procedure in peace talks is not etched in stone. We don't feel the collapse of the talks," Tiglao added.

In a teleconference call, Tiglao confirmed that chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III and Agrarian Secretary Hernani Braganza left recently for Norway to hold "back-channel" talks with the NDF leadership.

The NDF blamed the collapse of the peace talks on the Macapagal administration, for its failure to send a note verbale to the Norwegian government on the formal resumption of negotiations this month.

Without the official note, Oslo was not able to prepare a specific venue and the talks, which were to have taken place last week, did not push through.

The government suspended the peace talks last June after the New People's Army, the armed wing of the communist movement, assassinated two congressmen.

The talks also bogged down over the NDF rejection of a government proposal that a single comprehensive peace agreement be concluded. The rebels said this was in violation of standing arrangements on the conduct of the talks.

Before they were suspended last June, the talks were focused on socio-economic reforms.

This would have been followed by discussions on political and electoral reforms and, finally, the disposition of forces.

Based on rules adopted by the two parties, each stage should result in an agreement, like the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, which capped the first stage of the talks covering human rights.

Tiglao said President Macapagal wants the negotiations to have only "one goal," which is one comprehensive agreement.

"We're ready for formal talks for one agreement," Tiglao said.

In a statement Saturday, the NDF said the President's "so-called final peace agreement with the NDF flies from the Hague Joint Declaration and other binding bilateral agreements between the Philippines and the NDF."

The NDF added that approval of an agreement would have to be postponed until after it is referred to its executive committee with a response not likely to come until March at the earliest.

On her weekly radio program Saturday, the President said peace talks with Moro separatist rebels looked hopeful but similar talks with the NDF were hampered by the communists' strict adherence to their ideology.

Ms Macapagal said that a new round of talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front was scheduled next week in Cotabato City.

But she said that "it is hard to be optimistic" over the attempts to restart stalled peace talks with the NDF, adding that "I am not in a hurry."

Asked why the peace talks with the MILF were progressing while the talks with the NDF remained sluggish, the President said that it depended on "the attitude of the other side."

"From what I've seen of the MILF, and even neutral (parties say), they really want peace," Ms Macapagal said of the 12,500-strong group that seeks to set up an Islamic state in Mindanao.

"Now, with the NDF, they have their ideology, the classical ideology, Marxist-Leninist-Mao Tse Tung thought, that is tightly structured. Naturally it is hard to break out of that structure," she said.

Michael Lim Ubac, Reuters, AFP

Just do it, GMA urged

BY G. LACUARTA

MILITANT groups that recently withdrew their support for President Macapagal-Arroyo called on her yesterday to stop "giving false hopes and empty promises to the families of 39 political prisoners and release them."

"The release of these people long detained on trumped up charges because of their political beliefs is long overdue. It is incumbent upon Malacañang to make good its pronouncements by releasing them to their families," said Rafael Mariano, chairperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

The President had ordered the release of at least 39 political prisoners, including a Moro rebel, to pave the way for the resumption of stalled peace talks with the National Democratic Front.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Saturday the prisoners were to be released immediately.

Perez said the release order was signed last year but the department could not implement it immediately.

Perez showed reporters a copy of two separate release orders dated Oct. 17, 2001 and Jan. 11, 2002.

The President approved the grant of pardon or bail to the 39 prisoners based on a recommendation by a review committee composed of Perez, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

All 39 belong to the so-called alleged political offenders (APOs), who were recommended for immediate release by human rights group Karapatan, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines and the Gabriela women's group.

The groups recommended their unconditional release but the review committee classified their cases into three categories—recommendees for the grant of pardon, bail or release on recognizance.

Those granted pardons were Francisco del Castillo, Roger Hintapa, Andres Penaflorida and Roberto Belicario.

Those approved for release on bail or recognizance were Ali Samad (SPO3 Hadji Ali Aguiao Samad), Charito Rioflorido, Eduardo Antonio, James Boniola, Alfonso Ybanez, Francisco Gaytano, Nito Banga, Joven Velasco, Rafael Llantino, Dominador Pancho, Edwin Pancho, Darwin Rodas, Roberto Encinares, Salvador Balde, Allan Llames, Alex Perdiguerra, Ronelo Canonigo, Michael Bardallon, Gloria Pabillon, Rey Montecillo, Mario Malloy-on, Cerelo Berog, Julio Villanueva, Rowen Maglente, Pedro Madera Jr., Ricardo Solangon, Nestor Solaimon Boton and Linda Lague.

The committee also approved the release on bail or recognizance of six APOs accused in the killing of Paul and Michael Quintos, the sons of Rep. Ricardo Quintos of Mindoro Occidental.

He identified them as Josue Ungsod, Ruben Balaguer, Eduardo Hermoso, Manuel Matricio, Mario Tobias and Gelito Bautista.

Bayan's Mariano said that among those who should be released is Nero Vallar, a Bayan leader in Cagayan de Oro City who was arrested by police on Jan. 9. *Reuters, AFP and Michael Lim Ubac*

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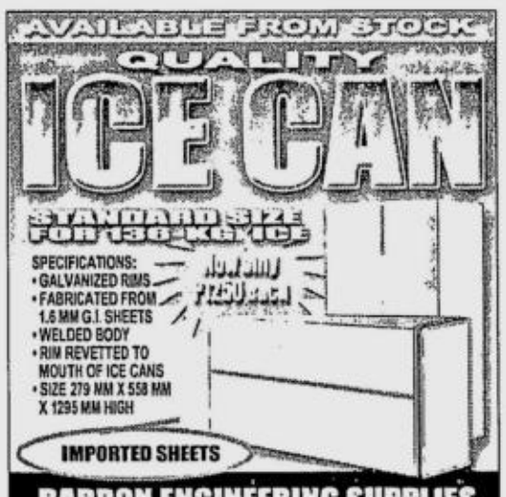
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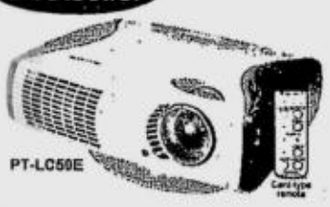

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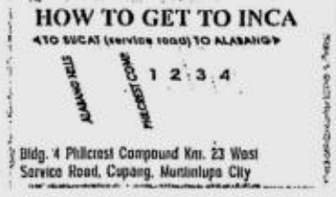

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Erap camp to SC: Wait for history

BY V. CONTRERAS

WAIT for the verdict of history.

This was the admonition of lawyer Jesus Crispin Remulla, spokesperson of Joseph Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, on the INQUIRER'S choice of the Supreme Court justices as Filipino of the Year for 2001.

Remulla said the high tribunal's "judicial activism," as cited in the paper's tribute to the justices on Sunday, "may be dangerous and sets a bad precedent" for it showed how the high court could lose its "insulation" from politics.

"*Huwag lalaki ang ulo nilà sa* Filipino of the Year *na 'yan* (They should not get swellheaded). History is still to judge them," Remulla said over the phone, when asked to comment on the paper's latest choice for the yearly honor.

"Supreme Court justices should be insulated from politics, but in this case they even participated (in a political upheaval)," he said.

Remulla was referring to the presence of several magistrates led by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. at Edsa II in January last year when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath as president.

To this day, Remulla is questioning how the Davide-led tribunal could uphold the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's presidency by deducing Estrada's "resignation" merely from a published account of his last hours in Malacañang.

This was the published "diary" which Estrada executive secretary and now Sen. Edgardo Angara kept of the beleaguered leader's final critical moments at the Palace.

The INQUIRER later published Angara's diary as a series.

"Why didn't they (Supreme Court justices) call Angara to court for a better appreciation of the facts? Why didn't they hale me to court?" he said, alluding to the mention of his name several times in the diary.

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Probe of e-mail order brides urged

(From page A1)

websites—www.filipina.com, www.filipinawife.com and www.filipinalady.com—that "exclusively and boldly sell Filipinas as brides and sex commodities," Legarda said in a press statement.

She said the Department of Foreign Affairs "should invoke moral grounds and make strong representations with the US government to call the attention of these two online firms that are engaged in a business that brazenly exploits and degrades Filipino women."

The senator urged the Philippine Embassy in Washington to identify the owners and operators of the two agencies so that the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation could blacklist them.

"None of these persons should be allowed to come to our country," Legarda said.

For a fee ranging from $2 to $60, www.filipina.com and www.filipinawife.com offer access to catalogues of hundreds of Filipinas, including their complete names, addresses and other personal details.

The website www.filipinalady.com offers annual or lifetime membership that grants access to a database of prospective Filipino brides. Membership costs $50 to $75 annually. Payments may be made by credit card, money order, check or cash.

Legarda called on the National Bureau of Investigation to find out if the two online firms have local partners, who solicit Filipinas for enlistment as mail-order brides.

"Since the servers of these online agencies are obviously based in the US, we cannot prosecute them here for lack of territorial jurisdiction. But what we could go after are their local partners or agents," she said.

A special law already bans and penalizes the matching of Filipinas to foreigners as mail-order brides and other similar practices, according to Legarda.

The Philippine Anti-Mail-Order Bride Law was enacted in 1990 after dozens of Filipinas, lured by mail-order bride firms, were later found to have been forced into prostitution.

"Other victims ended up as battered wives or forced domestic laborers," Legarda said.

Despite the existence of the anti-mail-order bride law, some 2,000 Filipinas continue to enlist with mail-order bride agencies annually because of poverty and lack of education, according to a report prepared by the Women's Legal Bureau Inc.

"The law is flawed because of its failure to designate a specific agency that will monitor and ensure enforcement (of the law)," she said.

Legarda underscored that "new ways of marriage matching using cyberspace and other forms of communication are beyond the reach of the law."

Under the law, what is penalized is "the matching of Filipinas for marriage to foreigners either on a mail-order basis or via personal introduction for a fee."

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'Boracay mansion' used hot timber

BY G. LACUARTA

THREE top environment officials in Region III have been charged with dishonesty and incompetence for the loss of P500,000 worth of lumber seized in Bulacan in 1998.

The lumber, which the Department of Environment and Natural Resources allegedly seized from the warehouse of Caloocan City trader Wilson Ng, was used in the construction of the "Boracay" mansion in New Manila, Quezon City, that is said to belong to jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, Ng alleged in his complaint.

Environment Secretary Heherzon Alvarez gave the go-ahead on Jan. 10 for formal charges to be filed against Gregorio Nisperos, DENR regional director; Romeo Buenaventura, assistant regional executive director for operations; and Rolando Suetos, community environment and natural resources officer of Cabanatuan City.

A special board of inquiry that investigated Ng's complaint found a prima facie case for dishonesty, oppression, neglect of duty, inefficiency and incompetence against the three.

They have been ordered to explain within 72 hours why they should not be placed under preventive suspension.

According to Ng's complaint, the Malaysian-sourced narra and almaciga lumber were taken from the yard of his Golden Lumber Sales Corp. in Marilao, Bulacan, from Oct. 15 to 19, 1998.

A caretaker testified that the then environment secretary, Antonio Cerillos, had even gone to the lumberyard during the five days that the lumber was being hauled by personnel from the DENR.

Ng learned that the lumber was first taken to Elco Wood in Balagtas, Bulacan, and later deposited in the yard of Catmon Sales Corp. in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Catmon is owned by a certain Thomas Toh to whom Estrada had acted as a godfather, Ng said.

Ng said Nisperos, Buenaventura and Suetos had "personally overseen" the transfer of the lumber. The three have refused to talk to either him or his lawyer, he said.

The DENR team also did not make an inventory of the lumber even as these were being taken out, the complaint stated.

Ng said that on Oct. 17, 1998, or on the third day of the "raid" on his lumber yard, a mutual friend arranged for him to see then San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada to ask for assistance in retrieving the seized lumber.

He said the young Estrada called up Wilfredo Nicolas, the then commissioner of the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB).

Ng said Nicolas had allegedly admitted that Cerilles had asked for EIIB escorts for the DENR personnel taking out the lumber from his yard.

He said Jinggoy had given instructions that the lumber be kept intact and properly inventoried.

Two months after the seizure of Ng's lumber, DENR personnel, armed with a search warrant issued by an Angeles City court, returned and drove off with six of his trucks, Ng said.

They did so despite being shown import documents properly processed by the customs bureau for the trucks.

Ng said he abandoned his property and businesses in Bulacan because of repeated threats from armed EIIB men and policemen from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in the three years since the raid.

These apparently stopped when Estrada was ousted in January last year.

Environment Undersecretary Ramon Paje ordered an inventory of the seized lumber last December, but the inventory team found that the lumber was no longer intact at the yard of Catmon Sales Corp.

Ng said some of the lumber may even now be rotting in the lumber yards of Catmon and Elco.

He said his caretakers had also seen DENR personnel loading some lumber into their personal vehicles during the seizure operations.

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Elite troops comb Basilan jungle for Sayyaf bandits

SUMISIP, Basilan—A squad of elite Scout Rangers makes its way through the thick undergrowth at the heart of the strife-torn island province of Basilan, hunting for a small band of Moro kidnappers and their two American and one Filipina hostages.

The soldiers come across discarded dry-cell batteries and charcoal ashes—all signs that the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping group has passed through the area. But there has been no sighting of the armed band in almost a month.

Despite this, the troops move gingerly in triangular formation for security, their fire support team following closely in case of an ambush.

The Abu Sayyaf group, which has links to the al-Qaida network of terror mastermind Osama bin Laden, may be hiding in caves or trenches, military intelligence says.

The soldiers instead contend with the jungle landscape where visibility is usually limited to a few meters and the rough ground which makes walking difficult.

"It's not a firefight. It's a fight against the terrain," said Maj. Charlie Galvez as he and the other soldiers struggle through the brush.

"We have to learn a lot of things from the environment. We have to learn even the sounds of the animals, whether it signals the presence of people," Galvez warns.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the military to annihilate the Abu Sayyaf within three months and presumably rescue their remaining hostages, American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipina nurse Deborah Yap.

But despite the deployment of 7,000 soldiers in this heavily forested island, finding the kidnappers is proving difficult.

They have been hunting the Abu Sayyaf since the rebel group, notorious for kidnapping Christians and foreigners, launched their latest abduction spree, seizing three Americans and dozens of Filipinos in a series of kidnappings that began in May.

Although some of the hostages were freed, reportedly in exchange for ransom, one American, Californian Guillermo Sobero has been killed, along with over a dozen Filipino captives.

Some distance from the ranger patrol, Southern Command Chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu is conducting an inspection of a former Abu Sayyaf camp that was overrun by the military.

There are few signs of the kidnappers, who left the jungle camp in December. Just a crude tent among the tightly packed trees.

A radio communications post has been set up and Cimatu says the enemy's abandoned camp will become one of five jungle bases to be set up in Basilan to allow soldiers to slowly encircle the Abu Sayyaf.

"We are introducing a fast way of resupplying our soldiers. Logistics will be hastened" with this new system, Cimatu said.

"The Abu Sayyaf are also not trying to compromise their situation and location at the moment.

"They try not to fire any bullets as this will give away their position. But that's their problem: how to sustain such a way of hiding," Cimatu said.

Crushing the Abu Sayyaf and rescuing the hostages would go a long way to redeeming the battered reputation of the Philippine military and the country as a whole.

The government's failure to rout the group despite years of kidnappings has given the entire southern Philippines an image of lawlessness, scaring away investors and tourists.

The armed forces' reputation has also suffered with former military commanders being accused of colluding with the Abu Sayyaf, reportedly for part of the ransom.

However the ties between the Abu Sayyaf and the al-Qaida have prompted the United States to pour in large amounts of military assistance to the Philippines partly in the hope that this will help recover the Americans.

A team of US military advisers is in nearby Zamboanga City, preparing for the arrival of more than 100 American soldiers who will help train Philippine troops in counter-terrorism.

But Filipino officials stress that the Americans will not take part in actual combat against the kidnappers. That would be too much for the country's already-tarnished honor. *AFP*

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Supreme Court Doctrines

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Capital offense, when bailable—Before conviction, every person is bailable except if charged with an offense, or an offense punishable by *reclusion perpetua* or life imprisonment when evidence of guilt is strong. A capital offense has been defined as an offense which, under the law existing at the time of its commission and of the application for admission to bail, maybe punished with death. Consequently, when the accused is charged with an offense punishable by death, *reclusion perpetua* or life imprisonment, the judge shall conduct a hearing, whether summary or otherwise in the discretion of the court, not only to take into account the guidelines set forth in Rule 114, Section 9 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure, but primarily to determine the existence of strong evidence of guilt or lack of it, against the accused. If the evidence of guilt is not strong, bail becomes a matter of right. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, People v. Mapa, G.R. No. 125698, July 19, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

The Daily Gospel

Monday, January 14, 2002
1st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 S 1:1-8
Gospel: Mk 1:14-20

After John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee and began preaching the Good News of God. He said, "The time has come; the kingdom of God is at hand. Change your ways and believe the Good News."

As Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." At once, they left their nets and followed him. Jesus went a little farther on and saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee; they were in their boat mending their nets. Immediately, Jesus called them and they followed him, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men.

Commentary

The time has come. The establishment has killed the "greatest man born of a woman," John, the latest prophet. "Now is my time" Jesus seems to think. He personalized the Kingdom and now is the time to establish God's Kingdom on earth. Let's go, hurry up Simon, Andrew, and you, James and John! Right now, Jesus is calling you, too, to leave something or someone behind. Be not afraid, have courage. Your attitudes, your work, your places, even your name will be changed, like it happened with the first disciples the Lord called to follow him. Like in their case, your generosity and prompt response will make a difference for the cause of God's plan. Missionary Congregations and Christian communities are praying and searching for more committed workers. Am I doing enough?

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Gov't troops raid Abu hideout

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government troops have killed an undetermined number of suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen in a raid on a rebel stronghold, a top military official said Sunday.

Villagers had told the troops of the presence of gunmen in Tuburan, Basilan, where the Abu Sayyaf are holding captive a US Christian missionary couple and a Filipina nurse, Southern Command Chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said.

"Villagers have been providing the military with information about the presence of gunmen in their areas, particularly the Abu Sayyaf and we are grateful to them," he said.

Cimatu said a number of rebels were believed killed in the fighting, which occurred late Friday. There were no casualties on the government side.

It was not immediately known if the gunmen belonged to the same Abu Sayyaf unit holding hostage Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipina nurse Deborah Yap in Basilan's jungle-clad terrain, the general said. *AFP*

Bishops criticize Tolkien movie

ROMAN Catholic bishops have criticized Hollywood's "Lord of the Rings" saying graphic battle scenes could give children nightmares.

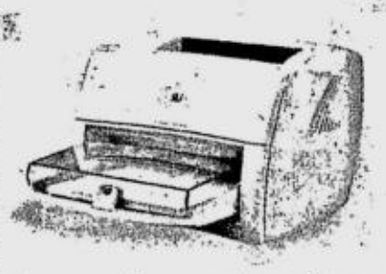
The film, based on the popular fantasy novel by J.R.R. Tolkien, could be praised for its "above average technical assessment" but may not be very suitable for children below 14 years old, said the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in a review published in a newspaper.

"Just because there is no impure act in 'Rings,' it doesn't mean it's clean enough for children," the CBCP said.

"The battle scenes could tire adults and produce nightmares in children which no amount of parental guidance may prevent," it added.

The bishops, however, applauded the film's director Peter Jackson and cinematographer Andrew Leslie in re-creating the epic story of the Middle Earth hobbits in their battle against evil.

The Philippines is Asia's bastion of Catholicism and the church wields a considerable influence over the country's 78 million population. *AFP*



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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a decision in **DARAB Case No. 7798** (Reg. Case No. CA-0367-96) entitled **SIMEON JIMENEZ versus DAR SECRETARY ERNESTO GARILAO, DAR Regional Director REMIGIO TABONES, Registry of Deeds of the Province of Cavite and AGUSTO PEREZ, PEDRO CAUSAREN, CIPRIANO CLIMACOSA, FELIFE FRANCISCO and MARIANITO CAUSAREN as members of ARBA of Tres Cruzes, Tanza, Cavite** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on January 25, 2000.

Counsels and parties to this case particularly **Pedro Causaren** and **Marianito Causaren** whose last known address was in **Brgy.Tres Cruzes, Tanza, Cavite** are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of the posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

January 9, 2002. Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

Inquirer-Jan. 14&21,2002

Elite troops comb Basilan jungle for Sayyaf bandits

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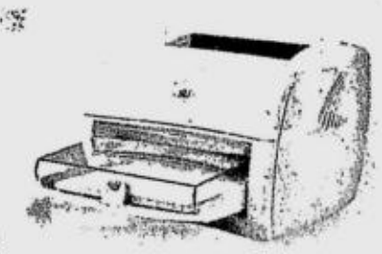

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Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (DARAB)

Annex Bldg., DAR Central Office Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

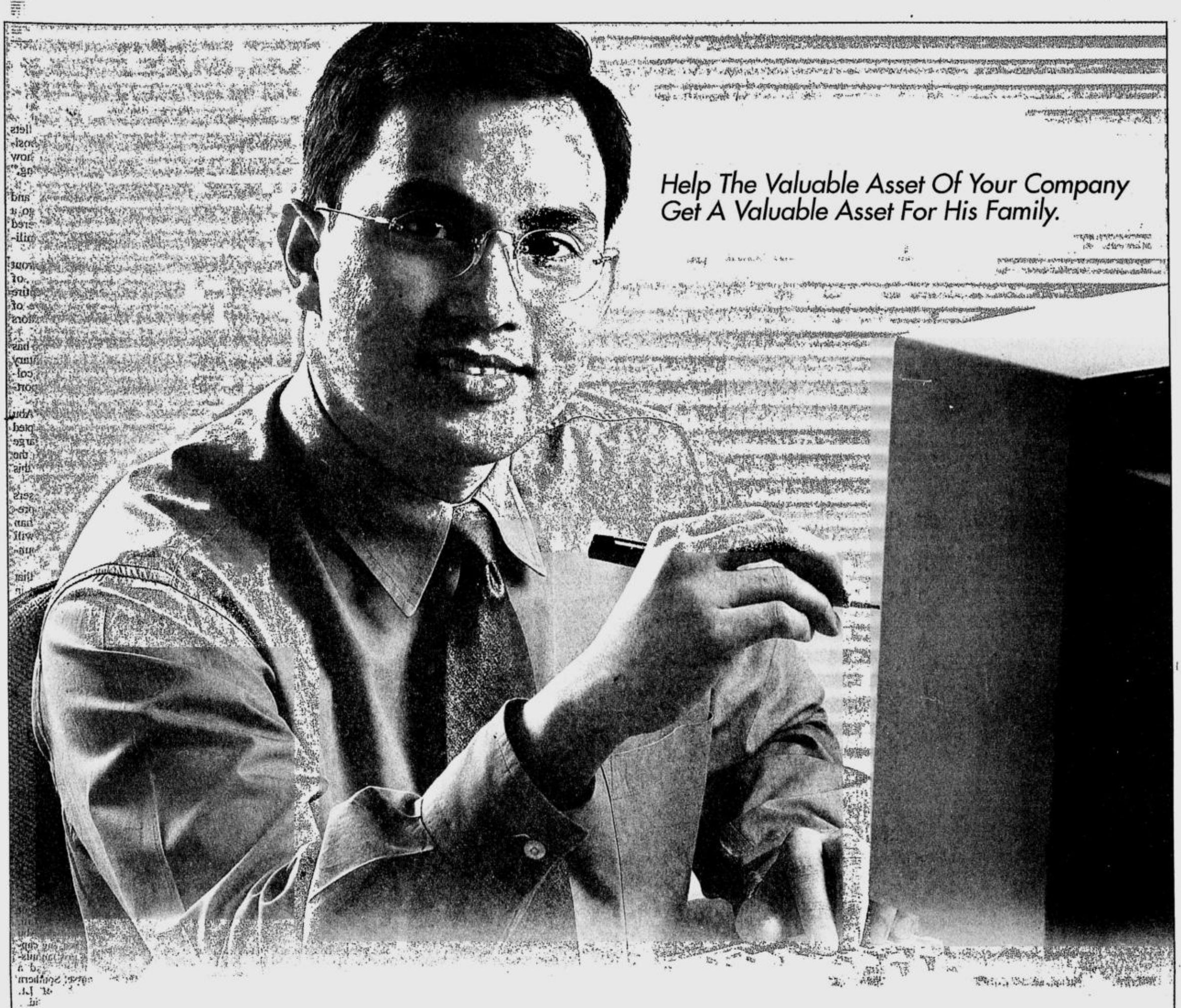
Notice is hereby given that a decision in **DARAB Case No. 7798** (Reg. Case No. CA-0367-96) entitled **SIMEON JIMENEZ versus DAR SECRETARY ERNESTO GARILAO, DAR Regional Director REMIGIO TABONES, Registry of Deeds of the Province of Cavite and AGUSTO PEREZ, PEDRO CAUSAREN, CIPRIANO CLIMACOSA, FELIFE FRANCISCO and MARIANITO CAUSAREN as members of ARBA of Tres Cruzes, Tanza, Cavite** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on January 25, 2000.

Counsels and parties to this case particularly **Pedro Causaren** and **Marianito Causaren** whose last known address was in **Brgy.Tres Cruzes, Tanza, Cavite** are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of the posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

January 9, 2002. Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

Inquirer-Jan. 14&21,2002



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OPINION

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Willing victims?

ELEVEN years ago, law student Lenny Villa died as a result of injuries sustained during fraternity initiation rites. Last week, the Court of Appeals acquitted 19 of the accused and downgraded the sentence of four, from homicide to slight physical injuries. Only the conviction on homicide charges of two Aquila Legis leaders, whom the court found to be responsible for resuming the hazing after it had already been completed, was upheld.

EDITORIAL

The language of the decision resolving one of the most sensational hazing cases in Philippine history already anticipated a public backlash. "We are certain that at some point, there might be some misgivings from the public as regards our findings," Associate Justice Eulogo G. Versola wrote in his decision.

He got that one right. The decision, which essentially found that that there was no conspiracy in the series of events which led to Villa's death and that the victim's participation was voluntary, is questionable on at least three grounds.

The public did not thirst for revenge. The court ungenerously characterized the public interest in the infamous case as a search for vengeance. "We will never be swayed by the public outcry for revenge for this court administers not vengeance but justice," the court said. Stirring words, except that they are based on an assumption that is specious at best.

The outcry was not a call for blood; it was precisely a demand that justice be done. A young man, then a freshman at the Ateneo de Manila Law School, died in the hands of other law students, in an attempt to join a select fraternity at an elite university. The crime was committed by prospective agents of the law, potential officers of the court—in other words, the very people who would be called upon to serve the ends of justice. What Villa's death did, therefore, was to make the scales of justice dangerously off-balance.

The public outcry which the court noted is merely an appeal for the scale to be set right again.

The practice of hazing is not routine. The appellate court's ruling, which passed judgment on a 1993 lower court decision, cavalierly assumed that a violent form of initiation is all right if done once, but problematic when done twice. The court found that Villa and the other neophytes were still "in relatively good shape" when the hazing was concluded. It was only when fraternity leaders Fidelito Dizon and Artemio Villareal resumed the beatings, "marked (this time) by excessive violence," that Villa succumbed and another victim, Bienvenido Marquez III, needed emergency hospital care.

We lament that the court has failed to strike a blow against the indefensible practice of hazing (now banned under the law) in general, but the decision is questionable even within the particulars of the case. The Court of Appeals made a distinction between the first beatings and the second, and then put all the blame on the latter. Is this even physiologically sound? Wasn't there a necessary cause-and-effect relationship between the first and the second beatings? The court also found Vincent Tecson, Junel Anthony Ama, Antonio Mariano Almeda and Renato Bantug Jr. to have inflicted "more than the usual punishment undertaken during such initiation rites on the person of Villa," but then inexplicably lowered their liability to slight physical injuries. The science behind this finding is beyond us.

The victim is not willing. Of all the shortcomings in the decision, the worst in our view is the blithe rationalization of the crime from the point of view of the victim. "It is worth pointing out that the neophytes willingly and voluntarily consented to undergo physical initiation or hazing," the court said. "They knew that the initiation would involve beatings and other forms of hazing. The deceased, Lenny Villa, even obtained the consent of his parents."

Now this is like saying that a rape victim waylaid on an unlit street on her way home has effectively lowered the liability of the rapist, because she willingly and voluntarily decided to use a dangerous passage that led to the crime. Or, to drive the point home, that a Chinese-Filipino businessman shoulders some of the guilt for his kidnapping because he had the temerity to be rich.

How can this be? The onus of responsibility always lies with the perpetrator, not the victim.

I had a dream

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ANTI-ADMINISTRATION groups have threatened to disrupt the celebration of the first anniversary of Edsa II on Jan. 20. There are even threats of an Edsa Cuatro or a coup to unseat President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I must have been so worried about them that I dreamed it was already Jan. 20 and the anniversary rites were underway. There was a big crowd around the Edsa Shrine; placards and banners not flattering to the President—who was about to deliver her speech—were everywhere. Martin Luther King had his dream and I had mine yesterday. In my dream, President Macapagal was transformed from a cheap politician to a great statesman. This was her speech.

"My countrymen,

"Today, we are commemorating that historic event right here when you, the people, deposed one president and put in his place another: Me. But today, I can see that the same people who put me in Malacañang already want me to step down. And I have hardly warmed my seat.

"You gave President Marcos 20 years before deposing him. You gave President Estrada almost two years before deposing him. Why are you giving me only one year? Why are you so stingy with me?

"I know why you are disappointed with me. I have not been able to appoint to choice positions all those who helped me become President. I know you helped me because you want to be appointed to sinecures, but there are only so many sinecures and there are so many of you. There are not enough government positions to all those who want one. I cannot appoint Jun Enriquez and Linda Montayre or Boy Saycon because *naubusan na sila. Naunahan sila ng* retired generals. I have to please the military men first because they have the guns.

"I have illegally appointed outsiders like Gil Valera to replace civil service eligibles to accommodate fortune hunters, in spite of my promise to respect the tenure of career officials and civil service eligibles. Vacancies are not being created fast enough because retirable officials don't want to retire, like Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva and DepCom Manahan. Treasure hunters want to be appointed to government corporations because they have the highest salaries (bigger than mine) but *masyadong mabilis si* Dante Ang. He had his journalist friends appointed directors of these government corporations, obviously to help me get a good press but which is not happening.

"The press, by the way, is one of the causes of my troubles. It is making *patol* those people with crazy charges against me. I have to be very inventive to counter all the bad press against me. I have appointed four undersecretaries in the Office of the Press Secretary, *ang isa Amerikano pa*. For such a small office, the OPS has two Cabinet-rank members and four undersecretaries, including a "coordinator" of all government press releases, *pero wala pa rin*. I'm still being clobbered by the media. I just copied that 'coordinator' job from President Marcos but why did he get a good press initially and I don't?

"I am being unfairly blamed for the sins of others. I am being blamed for the uncollected garbage and the infernal traffic in Metro Manila, but that is the sin of Benjamin Abalos. I am being blamed for the rise in kidnappings and other crimes, but that is the sin of Leandro Mendoza. I am being blamed for the failure to put an end to the Abu Sayyaf but that is the sin of Angelo Reyes. I am being blamed for the Napocor losses that are so big that it has to be sold, but that is the sin of President Ramos. I only appointed them. They're supposed to do the work, not me. Why blame me for their non-performance?

"Again, why blame me if my husband is jobless and he wants to be a broadcast personality? Why blame me if my son wants to be an actor although he cannot act? As they say, you can choose your friends but not your relatives. Mike is only my husband although sometimes he thinks he is the president, but he means no harm. You can blame me for marrying him in a moment of weakness. I have not stopped blaming myself since then. That is my mistake and I have suffered enough for it. So enough already.

"I did not realize that being President is this hard. *Wala kang magawang tama. Sala sa lamig, sala sa init. Bagsakan ka ng sisi. Napakahirap talaga, mga kuya!* I did not realize that President Estrada and Nur Misuari would be my problems at the same time.

"I am being accused of not doing anything but prepare for my reelection in 2004. That is not true. And to prove that to you, I am telling you here and now that I will not run for president in 2004. I will just finish my term and go. You won't have Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to crucify anymore. I am also resigning from my party and won't endorse anybody for president.

"I will be a non-political President and will devote the rest of my term to doing what is right for the country. That is so I will not be subjected to pressure by groups controlling votes. I would have no need for votes. I don't have to coddle squatters or give labor groups pay increases because I don't need their votes. I don't have to cozy up to businessmen because I won't need their contributions to any campaign fund. I don't have to appoint anybody just because he is recommended by a powerful politician. I will have no need for politicians. I can even veto their pork barrel.

"I will be free to do only what is right and just.

"I would rather be remembered as a statesman, not a defeated President like my father.

"So you can have the presidency in 2004. You can stick it up yours."

In my dream, the crowd roared in approval and admiration. What a great self-sacrificing statesman, the press agreed. World leaders sent their congratulations and she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Opportunist politicians then scrambled to grab the presidency. But they were so transparently greedy and opportunistic that the people didn't want any of them. They began to clamor that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo be drafted to succeed herself. The clamor grew so big that she had to heed the call of her countrymen. She didn't have to work for it after all.

What a beautiful dream. But then, I woke up and the dream ended.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

More gunpowder

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MANNY Molina complains. (Letters, 1/11/02) He says that since I am a columnist of this paper, I have an unfair advantage over him in arguing guns here. He asks me instead to debate the issue with him or any Pro-Gun advocate in any forum where he and his cohorts have a chance to respond. "I assure everyone that when we do, we will behave like intelligent, mature and open-minded people, and we will not be armed."

You keep writing your, well, let us be charitable and call them opinions, to the Letters section, and I will keep responding. If your concept of fairness is that I should leave you with the last word on the subject in these pages, then you must be more deluded than I thought. You confine your thoughts to the e-mail, where everyone is free to imagine he is erudite or can write—which is the downside of cyberspace, it has collected more garbage than Payatas—and I will let it at that. You keep crowding out intelligent opinions in these precious pages, and I won't. This newspaper has not been inhospitable to you and your group. You shouldn't be complaining, you should be thankful.

I have better things to do than to debate with any Tom, Dick and Manny outside of writing. But I can easily recommend people who can, and will. Nandy Pacheco, who has been indefatigable in his efforts to control guns, is chief of them. Why don't you invite him to your forums? He should make short shrift of your "salient points" about gun ownership, which you find too prodigious to set out in your long letters.

While at this, I am glad you assure everyone that you will not be armed when you debate with people in these forums. That assurance is necessary, if not reassuring. Which brings me to: You make a big deal about fairness, where is the fairness in people walking around with guns, legal or illegal—and the legal is thoroughly questionable, which is the real issue here; but I will get to that—and acting like bullies? Oh, yes, they do. Even the Pro-Gun stickers are there not to proclaim a belief but to intimidate other vehicles, or pedestrians. The old ERAP stickers in cars fulfilled much the same purpose—they were not meant to profess undying loyalty to Erap, they were meant to browbeat traffic cops and ordinary citizens.

I assure you on the other hand that you invite people like Pacheco to your forums, and they will go there with or without your assurance that you will not be armed. They will not be there on your sufferance, they will be there on their principles. But I am glad as well that you assure everyone you "will behave like mature, intelligent and open-minded people" in these forums. You got one word right there at least: It is "like."

But Molina says he can deal only with the "peripheral points" in my column. They include:

He is not the president of ProGun, he is the vice president. I owe the president, Johnmuel Mendoza an apology.

Well, maybe. But only after their group first apologizes to the public for existing.

Further, he never sought to endorse ProGun in his previous letter, he merely questioned the way media depicted "the incidents in question as a blanket move by the government to arm civilians." How, for example, could media interpret the Department of Interior and Local Government's desire to add more civilian agents to be "arming civilians" when the DILG has already deputized people in this way and merely wants to add to them?

First off, for someone who complains that media make sweeping statements, he makes the most sweeping statements about media. I myself saw a couple of news reports that interpreted the initiatives, which include his example above, as arming civilians. That is all.

But why should that interpretation be wrong at all? Molina says the DILG's adding more civilian agents cannot possibly be arming civilians because the DILG is already doing so through the perfectly legal process of deputizing them. Well, deputizing them is arming civilians to begin with. Of course the more accurate interpretation would be "arming **more** civilians," but who cares, the principle is there. The problem precisely is unleashing "civilian agents" who are indistinguishable from criminals. You want more of those creepy police "assets" to protect you? And paid for by your taxes? The fact that they have come into this world legally must only say that law should be scrapped immediately and not made to wreak more iniquity.

As to Molina's letter not being an endorsement of ProGun, well, he did not sign his first letter "Manny Molina," he signed it "Manny Molina, vice president, ProGun." Clearly, he meant to bring the weight of his organization to his views, such as they were. His point about his exact position in ProGun must show how obdurately it preys on his mind. But if there is any doubt about that, his last sentence should dispel it: "We in ProGun have always believed that anti-gun sentiments and LSD have the same effect on supposedly intelligent minds: they both addle the mind and cause them to spew forth gibberish."

Which brings me to his complaint about my column being a personal attack on him. That last statement of his is not? You like to dish it out, be prepared to take it. I do. You should read some of my e-mail. I like it when I irritate smug Americans, or Filipino-Americans, who imagine their country is God's gift to the world, and like it better when they are driven to creative vituperation. It would be another matter though if their letters were to find print in these precious pages. Then they'll get this, too.

Molina complains in particular that I say they have gunpowder for brains. He ends his letter by saying that in a previous column I said Jose Rizal was executed in 1996 and the Philippine-American War began in 1999. "I may be living in the past," he says in an attempt at wit, "but at least I'm not off by a hundred years." What can I say? You have all the time in the world to dismantle guns and oil their parts lovingly, and you will spot typographical errors.

But you will recognize them as such only if you do not have gunpowder for brains.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@yasia.com

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Correct decisions

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE INQUIRER columnists have nothing to do with the paper's annual choice of the Filipino of the Year, now on its 11th year, as it is a poll conducted only among the editors. But I concur wholeheartedly in their choice of the Supreme Court as the institution with the most positive impact on the life of the nation in 2001. The high tribunal has in the last year come up with a series of landmark decisions that have had, to put it rather understatedly, a direct bearing on the life of the nation; hence it deserves fully the award of "Filipino(s) of the Year." President Macapagal, who lost to the Supreme Court by three votes, doubtless would be the first to agree to the choice of the high magistrates for the award—not just because she was a direct beneficiary of its decision, but because it was the right choice.

Foremost among the high court's decisions was the unanimous ruling of March 2, 2001, that declared President Macapagal's assumption into office as legitimate and threw out President Estrada's assertion that he merely took a "temporary leave of absence." That decision settled a most crucial political question that threatened to rend the country asunder. Then came the ruling on the constitutionality of the Anti-Plunder Law and on the coconut levy funds as prima facie public funds; these were decisions that will impact profoundly on the science of governance and its crucial side issue, accountability in public office, for generations.

* * *

The INQUIRER pointed out that the Jan. 20, 2001 decision of the high court for Chief Justice Hilario Davide to swear in Ms Macapagal "shifted the focus from Davide to the Court as a collegial institution, acting as the final arbiter of constitutional conflict in Philippine democracy." It may be so, but all throughout those epochal decisions there was little question that it was the SC chief who was providing the clarity of vision and the undeniable inspiration for his fellow magistrates. He was the unwavering North Star guiding the SC ship to the safety of legal shores.

A few days after Jan. 20, 2001, this column narrated the untold story of how the tribunal arrived at the decision to uphold Ms Macapagal's oath-taking, and there was no doubt that it was Davide who provided the direction. Then too, by now everyone knows that in the beginning the anti-plunder deliberations had a 7-7 vote, which would have meant that the constitutionality issue would lose. What aggravated the matter was that an associate justice was pressing for the elimination of the oral arguments and immediate voting. But the chief justice argued that such an all-important issue should not be left un-debated by the Court and he proposed two weeks of deliberations, to which the members acquiesced. Those two weeks of heated arguments luckily turned the tide and the voting became 10-4 in favor of the law's constitutionality.

* * *

At the Palace dinner for Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, I queried Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona on how he felt about the repatriation of former ARMM governor and MNLF chief, Nur Misuari, and trying him here. I remarked about proposals that Misuari ought to be exiled to another country as a way to contain the crisis arising from his detention and impending trial. Guingona replied that one consideration that swayed the government's decision to detain and try him here is the fact that this case is being watched by the Estrada people. We didn't want to give them the chance to raise the issue of double standard against the government—how come Erap is being detained and tried here, whereas Misuari is allowed to go on exile? the Vice President said, stressing that this was the correct decision.

* * *

It is important for our leaders, including those in the opposition, to close ranks on this issue: Misuari has violated Philippine laws through acts of rebellion and has been repatriated from Malaysia to stand trial here before a legitimate court. Misuari's forces will be encouraged to take up arms on his behalf or discouraged, depending on the responsible or irresponsible pronouncements of our leaders.

* * *

One man who has the capability of calming the Bangsamoro people on this issue is new ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin. He will have plenty of funds at his disposal to move the ARMM, and in Muslim political culture, nothing attracts people more than the prospect of sizable development funds. Dr. Hussin can attract Misuari's followers with the prospect of moving the ARMM and sharing the benefits of development with everyone, regardless of political affiliation, through good and effective governance. It's difficult to see why Misuari's followers would stick with someone who's in jail and faces possible conviction, when they could partake of the goodies from Dr. Hussin. This principle operated with Macapagal vs. Estrada; it should work with Hussin vs. Misuari.

* * *

It's getting more difficult to understand Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel. Now he is demanding that President Macapagal state categorically that she will not run in 2004, arguing that only by disavowing further political ambition can she effectively govern; until she does so, Pimentel argues, everything she does will smack of mere "politicking." This, to my mind, however, is an unfair demand. All politicians, from the lowliest councilor to the President, set their targets and gear all their words and actions accordingly. This includes Pimentel himself, who has been trying to campaign for the presidency for years now.

* * *

Why exclude President Macapagal? I think she is realistic enough to know that her chances to be elected in 2004 will depend on how she performs in the next two years. But what the opposition wants her to do is to clear the deck for them this early. As the street-smart would say, *ano sila, sinuswerte*?

As for that other guy demanding Ms Macapagal's resignation, the self-appointed chair of the Philippine Consultative Assembly, former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, perhaps it is only fair for him to do what Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao has suggested that he does, out of *delicadeza*. That is, to resign his seat in the board of the Energy Development Corp., the biggest subsidiary of the government-owned Philippine National Oil Corp. To be sure, Enriquez's salary in the EDC is paid, not by Ms Macapagal but by the Filipino taxpayers, but it was she who appointed him there. If he cannot work with her administration he should resign, and then he can remain her most vociferous critic.

Tricks of the mind

THE FRONT PAGE of the Jan. 9 issue of the INQUIRER carried the news about former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Nur Misuari's request for a chicken to be cooked the "halal" way, or in accordance with Muslim rules.

The continuation of the news report on Page 5 included Justice Secretary Hernando Perez's request to the Supreme Court to allow the transfer of the place of trial of Misuari for rebellion charges from Jolo, where the taking up of arms was allegedly committed, to Metro Manila.

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

The relevant sentence reads: "Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday asked the Supreme Court to transfer the venue for the trial of Misuari from Jolo to Metro Manila, preferably inside **Fort Santiago**." (Underscoring supplied)

Although buried in a pile of black ink, the words "Fort Santiago" did not escape the sharp eyes of Moises Escabido of Marikina City. In a humorous way, he observed that "whoever wrote and edited that news must be suffering either from a severe case of historical romanticism or had removed his eyeglasses when he was going through that portion of the report.

"Unless my history teacher was wrong, Fort Santiago was last used as a detention cell during World War II. It has been for a long time a tourist spot for people who are interested in knowing how people during the Spanish period lived and worked. I did not know that Fort Santiago has been reactivated to be the temporary quarters of politically prominent crime suspects.

"Your reporter probably meant 'Fort Sto. Domingo' because if your reports are to be believed, that is where Misuari is being held. Please don't tell me you merely quoted Secretary Perez because I am sure he will not make that mistake. Next time, please make sure your description of places and events is accurate. Readers like me expect you to be correct in all respects because that is the reason why we buy your newspaper even if it's expensive."

Clear error

Lawyers have a term for mistakes similar to that pointed out by the reader—*res ipsa loquitur*. Or the thing speaks for itself. Meaning, all one has to do to determine if an error had been committed is look at the object in question and he can, without even making any further examination, determine who is telling the truth and who is not.

No ifs, ands or buts, it is clear an error was committed in stating the preferred venue for Misuari's trial. It should have read "Fort Sto. Domingo," not "Fort Santiago." I'm sure the men and women who lost their lives in the torture chambers and dungeons of historic Fort Santiago will resist any move to make the place were they died the site of court proceedings that will determine Misuari's culpability for the crime of rebellion.

So what must have caused the mistake which the reader considers "not so funny," considering that the opening sentences of the news carried the correct name of Misuari's detention cell? It could be oversight, weary eyes and miscommunication between the brain and the fingers used for typing.

Chances are it is a combination of all those factors. Add to that, deadline pressure and the hustle and bustle that goes on inside the editorial room as everyone hurries to put the newspaper to bed, and one gets an idea on why mistakes of this nature arise once in a while.

Based on the accounts of the editors who cut their teeth in the reportorial beat, errors like these usually happen to words or phrases that have gained popularity or become household names. So that if the first word in a phrase or name is given, the succeeding word that has been associated with it is often added by force of habit.

A classic example is the former presidents who were in the news practically every day during their incumbency. Thus, mention the names "Cory," "Fidel," or "Erap" and the words that usually follow them are either "Aquino," "Ramos," or "Estrada." Advertisers call this reaction "name recall" which results from constant usage or reading of the familiar words.

Mind tricks

When familiar names or words cross the mind of the reporter or editor, the habit of thought that has been formed is transmitted immediately to the fingers and, by force of habit, the corresponding keys are pressed to conform to the writer's mind-set. Before the mind can guide the fingers to do its bidding, the familiar words have already been typed in the manuscript.

The writer finds it difficult to spot these mistakes because the mind can play tricks on him. The mind tells him the correct words have been written when, in truth, the wrong words had been typed. When one is tired and in a rush to finish the work, the familiar words are often glossed over or taken for granted.

But errors like these are caught in time and corrected if the drafts of the news reports are reviewed by another member of the editorial staff. The reviewer reads the draft with fresh eyes and without any mind-set about its contents that might influence his review.

During the impeachment trial of then President Estrada, the name "Jose Velarde" repeatedly came up as the name used as cover-up for the former president's huge bank accounts. That also happens to be the surname of another popular personality—Mike Velarde, the patriarch of the El Shaddai religious group.

Rushing to beat the deadline, a reporter unwittingly typed the name "Mike Velarde" in the news report he was preparing about the things that transpired during that particular day's trial. What could have been a big boo-boo was averted when an editor caught the mistake before it was fed to the database for that newspaper edition.

In a similar incident, when prosecution witness Clarissa Ocampo was the subject of the news, an editor unconsciously typed the name "Clarissa Batino," the name of one of the INQUIRER's business reporters, in the report. Apparently, the editor had always associated the name "Clarissa" with her colleague and it became second nature for her to type the surname "Batino" whenever her first name appears. Luck was on the side of the editor because the error was spotted before the draft was put in final form.

The moral of the story is, a writer cannot be too sure about the accuracy of his work. It helps if another person, preferably less harassed and with rested eyes, takes a look at it before the final "print" key is pressed.

Whatever may be the reason for the error in naming the place of detention of Misuari, the fact remains that an error had been committed and the INQUIRER regrets the slip-up. Minor it may appear to be to some, it's still a mistake that cannot and should not be ignored.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocat @inquirer.com.ph.

On the Muslim's right to rebel

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Datu Amir Baraguir

IN MINDANAO, radio programs controlled by Muslim religious leaders found a wealth of topics triggered by former ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari's repatriation and detention. One such topic is the rebellion case being readied by the government against the rebel chief.

Is rebellion against a government of *"jahiliyyah"*—an Arabic word translated as ignorance (of God)—prohibited or allowed under the "shari'ah" or Islamic law? Is it not even obligatory? On the basis of that law, does Misuari deserve condemnation or support?

These questions naturally beg for answers that can never be found in the Constitution or any of our legal codes, nor in the charter or statutes of the United Nations. Thus, these commentators enlist verses from the Holy Qur'an or examples from the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad—peace be upon him—to support their respective arguments.

In Cotabato City, where most of the Muslim radio programs are controlled by religious or civic organizations with known sympathies to subversive causes, people have mixed reactions to Misuari's detention. Some of them insinuate that he has been a traitor to "the cause" of the "Bangsamoro" people and Islam and, thus, deserves his fate.

Others say that his last stand in Cabatangan only showed his real color—a genuine soldier of Islam—and therefore he is deserving the support and prayers of well-meaning Muslims.

Whether they idolize or demonize Misuari is of no moment to me. What worries me is the way they treat rebellion per se. The Qur'an, these local shadows of Osama bin Laden declare, has ordered and the Prophet has duly exemplified rebellion against a government that was constituted on the basis of something other than Islam.

Mouthing a plethora of verses enjoining *jihad*, these Taliban clones disguised as broadcasters equate rebellion with *jihad*, thus making it an obligatory religious act. The Philippine government, they advance, is an un-Islamic or anti-Islamic institution. Muslims, obliged by Allah to govern themselves, are duty-bound to topple the government or, at least, carve out an independent territory to be governed on the basis of God's law. The Holy Prophet of Islam, they further claim, rebelled against the un-Islamic government in Makkah and established an independent Islamic government in Madina.

Is this line of reasoning, reeking of Bin Ladin's desert breath, correct?

Recycled perennially, it has provided fuel to the fireplaces of ignorance and sacrificed many a youth in the altars of untempered idealism and misguided zeal. If unchecked, it will continue to do so.

Months prior to the MILF's insurrection binge that led to the fall of Camp Abubakar, the same assertion was parroted by Muslim radio commentators (some of whom are even in the government payroll!), and the multitude of unemployed, unlettered, or underfed people listened and believed, many becoming martyrs of ignorance.

A radio program called "Radyu Kalimudan" tried to swim against the tide, to reverse the trend in Muslim broadcasting. It was subjected to the worst kind of harassment. The members were badmouthed, declared unbelievers and *fatwas* of death were issued against them. The Catholic radio station hosting them was bombed, injuring several persons including two civilian escorts of the group. The executive director of the program was even ambushed by suspected rebels estimated to number around 40 while going home from the station, barely escaping death. This was the cost of revealing the Islamic truth about rebellion, *jihad*, governance and Islam.

The truth is that the contention put forth by the rebellious mullahs and mullah-wannabes masquerading as mediamen is misleading, malicious and patently erroneous.

While it is true that God obliged all believers to make *jihad* (struggle toward perfection), it condemned rebellion against the established order.

While it is true that the Holy Prophet went to war when provoked, he never rebelled against any government.

This is not the place for enumerating and defining the kinds and levels of *jihad* ranging from personal to universal, from spiritual to military, much less the prerequisites and ends for each. Suffice it to say that none of them categorically encourage rebellion. On the contrary, rebellion (in Arabic, *"fasad"* or *"fitna"*) is condemned in many places in the Qur'an. As for Prophet Muhammad, he went on exile (*"hijra"*) on the order of Allah. He migrated specifically to Madina (then known as Yathrib) in 622 A.D. on the invitation of the people of that city-state, instead of waging rebellion against the government of the neighboring city-state of Makkah. This, despite the government persecution he suffered on account of his faith.

While in Madina, the Prophet was acclaimed as a leader on the basis of his superior qualities as a person. He was equally endorsed by Jews, Muslims, pagans and Magi of the various feudal tribes. Although a messenger of God par excellence, he did not impose his creed as the constitutional basis of government. Instead, he crafted the "Charter of Madina," virtually the first Islamic constitution, on the basis of the collective will of the tribes and religious communities as represented by their elders and leaders. That constitution was the basis of all social, political, economic and legal relations of the citizens, not the Qur'an.

Of course, Muslims among themselves voluntarily submitted to stricter laws that were based on the Holy Book which encompassed all aspects of their lives.

Rebellion is, for Muslims as for others, simply a crime reprehensible in essence and horrendous in its results.

* * *

E-mail your comments to datuamir@hotmail.com

Together again

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

IMAGINE that it is your 18th wedding anniversary. You and your spouse leave the kids in other capable hands and go off on a romantic holiday to an island paradise resort, afloat on the balmy Palawan sea. But one early morning, in a surreal happenstance, a band of 20 armed men on a fast boat swoops down on your rediscovered Eden, kidnaps you and large number of the other guests and resort employees. They then escape on the high seas back to familiar and seemingly impregnable redoubts on Basilan island and the Sulu Archipelago, and today, nearly eight months later, you are still a kidnapped hostage of the Abu Sayyaf.

This is precisely what happened to Gracia and Martin Burnham last May 27, 2001, when the bandit group carried out a daring, early morning raid on the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan and carried them off with a shocked group of vacationers who suddenly found themselves kidnapped hostages.

The hostages were mostly Filipinos (including the now-famous case of the "millionaire escapee," Reghis Romero, which is a whole, different story in its own right). But they included three Americans, the Burnham couple, and a certain Guillermo Sobero, who has already died, beheaded, it is said. Since November 2001, only the Burnhams remain of the original captives, plus a Filipino nurse, Deborah Yap, who was picked up by the bandits during their own, now famous and mysterious "escape" from the government troops who had them surrounded at a church and hospital in Lamitan. Not the Philippine military's proudest moment, Lamitan is another, much lamented saga in the government's handling of the Abu Sayyaf's hostage-taking spree of the last few years.

Gracia and Martin Burnham have been missionaries of the New Tribes Mission in the Philippines since 1986, a Christian evangelical organization based in Tampa, Florida, but with long deep roots in the Philippines. Both are children of Christian ministers and missionaries, with Martin's parents, Paul and Oreta Burnham, still active in the country. The couple have three children, all born in the Philippines, who have of course, many cousins, aunts and uncles and other relatives in Kansas and Arkansas, where their families on both sides are from.

Since their kidnapping and captivity, these friends and relatives of the Burnhams have been desperately organizing through prayer groups and congregations, and networking to keep public attention on the case of the Burnhams. They have been urging the US government to take a more active role in freeing the Burnhams and other hostages. As the Afghan campaign winds down, more media attention may be forthcoming.

I'm surprised US media outfits have not picked up on the case of the Burnhams and created a public furor around them. After all, these two American citizens have been hostages of an organization with ties to al-Qaida for nearly eight months. As the Afghan campaign winds down, and attention pans to other theaters of confrontation like the Philippines, the US government itself could come under increasing pressure from American citizens to do something about the Burnhams. Unlike our government, which has been historically and contemporaneously inept at protecting the citizenry, the Americans have a way of pressuring theirs into action.

The case of the Burnhams may yet prove to be a flash point in the emerging reengagement between America and the Philippines, which, it is obsequiously and gleefully noted by some, "is back on Washington's radar screen."

Most Filipinos and the media have been treating and portraying the Abu Sayyaf as a simple bandit group engaged in kidnap for ransom, who only happen to be Muslims and only coincidentally mouth Bangsamoro slogans. This has been a convenient demonization so as not to give political or ideological cover to what has truly been an audacious band of murdering *ladrones*. But since the events of Sept. 11 and the subsequent war on the al-Qaida network and its affiliates, that mental convenience is quickly becoming untenable. A rather more substantial transformation may be required if the Abu Sayyaf has to be treated in the broader context of a global war on terror, or even, a comprehensive solution to the Mindanao problem.

Incidents like the Sipadan and Dos Palmas hostage-taking sprees, done with deadly panache, must now be seen in the more sinister light of a broader worldwide movement of mischief and mayhem, sponsored and abetted by the al-Qaida and its sympathizers. Such a calibration of the publicly accepted nature of the Abu Sayyaf is necessary for the fuller political and military engagement of the United States that some are telling the administration is a solution to the vexing and festering problem of the Abu Sayyaf. Though it would offer palliative relief, a military solution to the Abu Sayyaf is not likely to constitute any lasting solution to an inherently political and historical problem in Mindanao.

What is unavoidable, is that, like a love affair that ended badly once, the Philippines and America must reengage in a dangerous new era that holds perils for both of them and all nations. So much history, so much resentment, so much is in the unfortunate past to bedevil the future of these two nations. Yet with so much at stake, with four million citizens in common, their bloodlines and their histories forever intertwined, perhaps they should try again, maybe not as lovers, or master and slave, but together again as friends and equals in a perilous new world.

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BIR performance has patently improved

I WOULD like to thank Antonio Calsado for his keen interest in the economic affairs of the nation, particularly the Bureau of Internal Revenue's performance. (PDI, 1/9/02)

While the claims Calsado made in his letter can stand some corrections and more research, allow me, however, to point out that relative to the contention that targets were reduced drastically "by about P20 billion, precisely because of the BIR's poor performance," it should be noted that targets were adjusted mid-2001 by the country's economic managers through the Development Budget Coordinating Committee or the DBCC in view of the expectations of slow economic growth for the whole year. Macro-economic assumptions underlying the national fiscal program had to be changed such that the original GDP growth target of 3.8 percent was downscaled to 3.3 percent, resulting in a corresponding reduction in the BIR's collection target.

Notwithstanding the decrease in goal, it is not fair to attribute this to the poor performance of the BIR considering that for the first half of 2001, the bureau exceeded collection target for the same period in the previous year by P10 billion or by 5.53 percent. This growth rate is almost double the growth rate achieved in the first semester performance of 2000 vis-à-vis 1999 at only 2.89 percent.

For the second half of the year, despite the adverse economic situation, the BIR initiated administrative measures to further improve collection. These are the voluntary assessment program, compromise settlement program, the improved creditable withholding tax system, strict monitoring of Local Government Units' remittances, and installation of DST metering machines. As a result, the BIR collection as of Nov. 30, 2001, exceeded collection by 8.41 percent compared to the year before. This is .33 percent over the goal for this period.

I am proud of the bureau's overall performance and I am prouder still, knowing full well that this performance was the product of dedicated and professional people in the bureau. I salute them.

I take this opportunity to assure Calsado, as well as all our countrymen, that the BIR is steadfast in its commitment to improve revenue collections even as it stands in the forefront of the challenging task of nation-building.

There is great hope for our country's future. I call on Calsado to share and support us in our transformation for the good of the BIR and our country.—**RENE G. BAÑEZ, commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue**

We need the common touch

FOR OUR government employees to be deeply committed to service for the welfare of the people, they should be possessed of the so-called "common touch." And what is common touch?

"Common touch," writes Norman Vincent Peale, a noted American pastor, "is the capacity to treat all people alike, regardless of status or importance."

It is believed that if our employees had the common touch, genuine and sincere service to our people, particularly the underprivileged, would not only be in the realm of dreams. It would become a reality.

In sum, it is hoped and prayed that common touch would be put into practice by all government employees, beginning in January up to the last month of the year, and all the subsequent years ahead, to serve as a fitting New Year's resolution.—**CARLOS SANTOS GEGANTOCA, president, Albay-Legazpi Press Association Inc., c/o PIA Albay Office, 2nd Floor, Patio de Legazpi, Albay District, Legazpi City**

Clearer info on Mindanao railroad

A LETTER was published in the INQUIRER's Jan. 9 issue titled, "Naia, other airports being upgraded" by Ramon Cuyco, spokesperson of the Department of Transportation and Communications. It mentioned that "the railway systems in Mindanao, Panay and the Philippine National Railways are also being rehabilitated to support the country's overall economic development program." My question is: Is there an existing railway system in Mindanao?—**ARPEE PORRAS, Cotabato City**

PhilHealth on cataract extractions

THIS is in reaction to the letter of Luis Arrieta of Davao City published in the INQUIRER last Dec. 15, 2001.

We wish to inform Arrieta that the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. provides the same benefit package for cataract extraction whether the procedure is done in an ambulatory surgical center or in the hospital, provided these facilities are accredited with PhilHealth. We have a maximum amount for the procedure of P9,000 per eye, inclusive of doctor's fees, drugs and medicines and other incidental expenses.

We are sending Arrieta some information materials that he can read for better appreciation of the National Health Insurance Program.—**LINDA B. LAURETA, manager, Corporate Communications Office, Philippine Health Insurance Corp., Room 1705, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City**

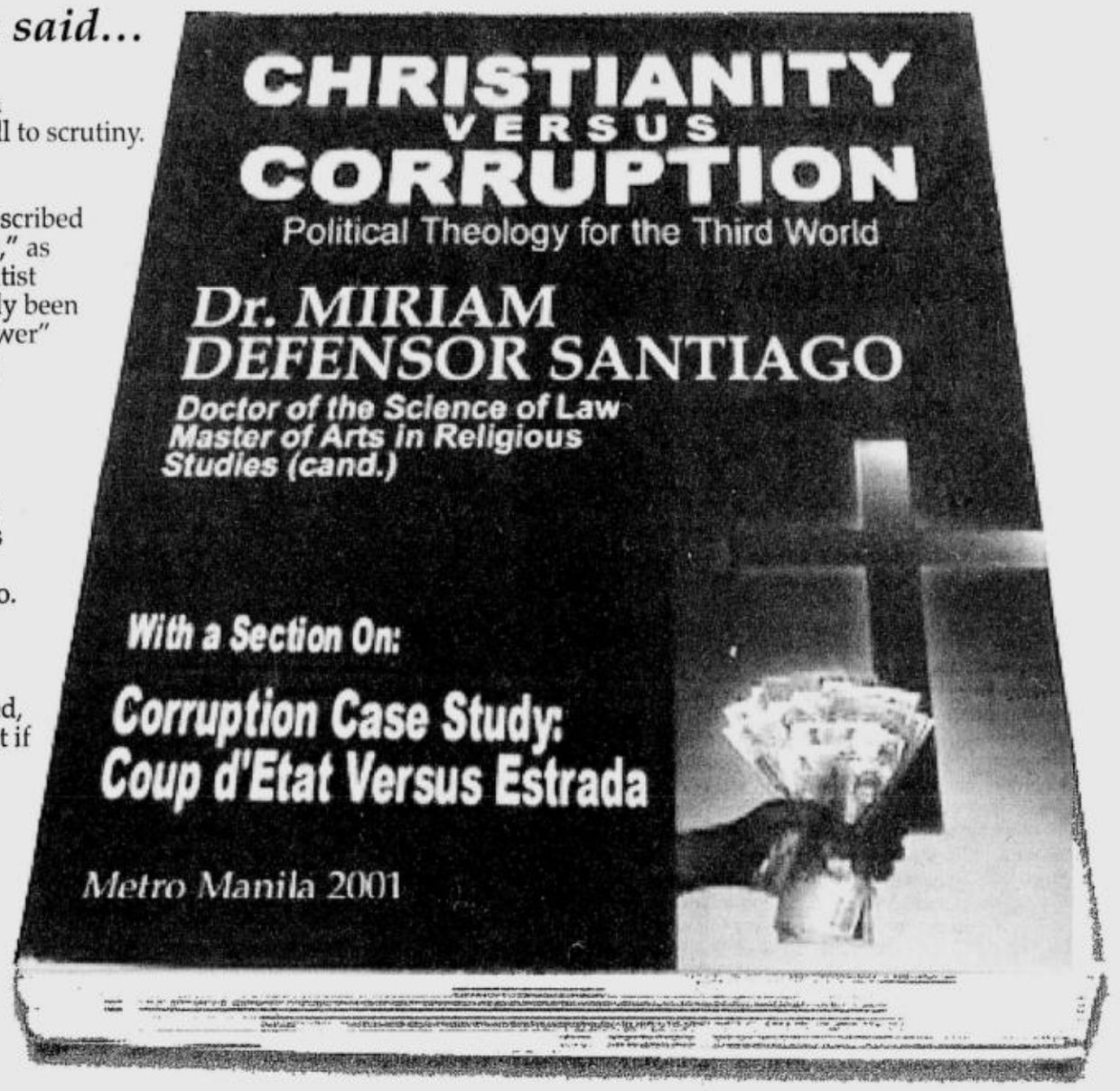
NOW AVAILABLE!

Find out why the foreign press said...

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took over the presidency in constitutional circumstances that do not stand up well to scrutiny.
The Economist, 28 July – 30 August 2001 at p. 11

People Power 2 was met with doubt and criticism, described by foreign commentators as a "defeat for due process," as "mob rule," as "a de facto coup." It was seen as an elitist backlash against a President who had overwhelmingly been elected by the poor. This time it appears, "people power" was used not to restore democracy but, momentarily, to supplant it.
Seth Mydans, New York Times News Service, 6 February 2001

Remember, Estrada – however cynically – was acting within the framework of the law and under the terms called for by the impeachment proceedings.
Had he been declared guilty, he would have had to go.
The troubling point remains that he had not been convicted... But they had mechanisms to legally change their head of state. The option they chose, popular uprising, while rousing and probably justified, could portend a troubling future for democracy... But if those protests lead to constitutionally questionable successions, it becomes a subversion of democracy.
Even now, we don't know what percentage of Filipinos wanted Erap to go.
Sandra Burton, Time, 29 January 2001 at p. 19



But the Philippine polity is 77 million-strong.
Was this a revolution of the Filipino people – or of a few hundred thousand Filipinos prompted by a few hundred powerful individuals? Perhaps this represents confusion between democratic passions and the rule of law. More likely, though,
People Power has become its own institution, and one that seems monopolized by a certain clique... People Power has become an acceptable term for a troubling phenomenon: one that used to be known as mob rule.
Anthony Spaeth, Time, 29 January 2001 at p. 22

The change of power in the Philippines was no boost for democracy because it was done outside the Constitution..."Change No Boost for `Democracy: SM"
Associated Press, The Straits Times, 26 January 2001

In everyone of these earlier instances, people power was used to oust a dictator, a political party that refused to hold elections, or a leader (Marcos or Yugoslavia's Slobodan Milosevic) who held onto power after a disputed election. Now by contrast, we are witnessing the use of people power against a leader who was the winner of a legitimate democratic election. No matter how understandable it was, this outbreak of people power doesn't feel like an advance for the cause of democracy, quite the opposite... Who or what, ultimately, was this particular movement against?...
"A Risky Move by Filipinos",
Jim Mann, LA Times, 24 January 2001

...This time however, the target of Filipinos' "people power" was not a dictator, like Ferdinand Marcos, but Joseph Estrada, a constitutional executive who received more votes than any previous presidential candidate and who remained popular among the country's poor... Though the Supreme Court ruled that Vice-President Macapagal-Arroyo should be sworn in as president, it was the military that forced the change, and the legality of the transfer remains questionable.
The Washington Post, 23 January 2001

Again, therefore, whatever curious legal construction anyone may now attempt to put on the ouster of Estrada, he was ousted by a military coup, with the connivance of the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church, major business groups and two former presidents. This will have any number of consequences, none too pleasant, for the coup makers and – more importantly – for the country. One loser among the coup makers will be the Archbishop of Manila, Jaime Cardinal Sin, and his church... Economically, from the standpoint of foreign investors, would you put money into a country whose constitution and legal system are only as reliable as the will and whim of an entrenched oligarchical elite...
Editorial: "Philippines: Banana Republic – At Best", Asia Times, 23 January 2001 at p. A16

However, far from being a victory for democracy that is being claimed by leaders of Jaime Sin, the evolution of events has been a defeat for due process. For many, it merely confirms the fragility of political institutions in the Philippines and the likelihood that the streets will become a regular location for political action "Filipino Democracy Needs Stronger Institutions",
Philip Bowring, International Herald Tribune, 22 January 2001

The result is that the Philippines, known for the "people power" movement that brought down Ferdinand Marcos, has the wrong kind of people power for the 21st century... The Philippines faces a political crisis that goes beyond the need to replace the person at the top. The challenge is to correct the situation in which society is divided into those who can outsmart the system and those who cannot. "Removing Estrada Will Not Save the Philippines",
Hilton L. Root, International Herald Tribune, 21 November 2000

AVAILABLE at National Bookstores. Or call Central Professional Books, 373-3550 to 52; Rarebook Enterprises, 285-6097; Miriam Defensor Santiago Offices, 372-4573. Free copies are given to head of religious communities

Philta election was clean, aboveboard

IN RESPONSE to the article written by Marc Anthony Reyes in the INQUIRER's Sports Sunday section, (PDI, 1/3/02) I would like to set the record straight and correct some misimpressions and misrepresentations:

- The election for regional vice president among club presidents in Region VI-B was a democratic process held under the rules and regulations set forth in the Philta constitution and bylaws and participated in by all contending parties who duly signed the results of the election.
- Col. Salvador Andrada was specifically invited by the Iloilo Tennis Association to clarify matters regarding the procedures in the holding of the election of the regional vice president and present his programs for tennis in Philta.
- We would like to recognize his professionalism that despite his presence and that of the appointed regional vice president, Jovy Morante, he did not in any way campaign to promote his candidacy. The Tennis Club presidents were also free to nominate and elect their regional vice president. Morante even endorsed Dr. Alfredo Marte's candidacy.
- The candidate of Jovy Mamawal was Pepe Tioco, who lost to Marte, 9-4.
- We recognize that there are many problems plaguing tennis in the Philippines at present but we are willing to work with the incumbent Philta administration for the betterment of tennis.—**ALFREDO MARTE, regional vice president-elect, Region VI-B**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readers advocate @ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The WORLD
LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Musharraf bans Muslim militants

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf Saturday banned two Kashmiri militant groups blamed by India for the Dec. 13 attack on its parliament but warned his country would meet any aggression from its neighbor with "full force."

In a landmark address to the nation, Musharraf also announced a crackdown on three other local extremist Muslim groups blamed for sectarian violence and slapped controls on religious schools, some of which have been blamed for breeding terrorism.

Hours afterwards, police arrested around 300 people from the five banned groups in central Punjab province after sealing their offices, a police official said.

The president spent a large part of the speech justifying the bold actions to his citizens, saying they were vital for ensuring stability and progress, while taking care to avoid being seen as bowing to international pressure, particularly from India.

Nevertheless, the move to ban the Lashkar-e-Taib and Jaish-e-Mohammad militant groups blamed by New Delhi for the deadly attack on its parliament was welcomed by the United States and others.

But Musharraf mixed the apparently conciliatory move with tough talk aimed at India. He vowed there would be no softening of Pakistan's stance on Kashmir, the divided territory that has been the cause of two of the three wars between the nuclear rivals since independence in 1947.

Traditionally strained relations between

MUSHARRAF during televised address

the two nuclear powers plummeted even further after the December attack. India later demanded the extradition of 20 militants as well as the closure of training camps and arms supply routes of Pakistan-based militant groups.

But Musharraf reiterated he would never hand over any Pakistani citizens on the list of 20 "most wanted" alleged terrorists.

"The question to hand over any Pakistani does not arise. We will never do it," Musharraf said.

With an estimated total of 800,000 troops from both countries massed on their common border, Musharraf had a warning for Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

"Pakistan's armed forces are fully deployed to face any challenge. They will sacrifice their last drop of blood for the defense of the country," Musharraf said.

"Do not try to cross the border from any area because we will retaliate with full force," he warned.

The Indian government said it was studying the speech "very closely" and would respond officially on Sunday.

But spokesperson for India's ruling BJP Party, D.K. Malhotra, said Pakistan had to follow words with deeds. "The benchmark will remain whether terrorism in Kashmir ends. It should not remain mere words."

The United States and the United Nations were among those who welcomed the condemnation of terrorism from a key US ally in the war in Afghanistan.

"The United States applauds the banning of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and welcomes President Musharraf's explicit statements against terrorism and particularly notes his pledge that Pakistan will not tolerate terrorism under any pretext, including Kashmir," US Secretary of State Colin Powell said.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan welcomed Musharraf's emphasis on "tolerance, the rule of law and the need to fight terrorism and extremism," he said, through spokesperson Fred Eckhard.

Musharraf said previous steps to stamp out religious violence at home had been ineffective. *AFP*

US planes pound al-Qaida bases

KABUL—US warplanes renewed their pounding of al-Qaida training camps in eastern Afghanistan Saturday as security in Kabul improved ahead of a visit to the city by US Secretary of State Colin Powell next week.

Following in the recent footsteps of British Prime Minister Tony Blair and a host of other US congressmen, Powell said he would like to meet with interim leader Hamid Karzai and discuss how best to marshal aid for the country's reconstruction.

"I would like to have an assessment of the situation in Kabul and in the country, but mostly (I would like) to get to know the leaders," he said Friday.

But in a sign that the US-led coalition's military campaign was far from over, US planes renewed their attacks around the town of Zhawar in Khost province despite appeals by local tribal chiefs on Friday to stop the bombing.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported heavy morning raids using high ordnance bombs, prompting residents to continue fleeing their homes.

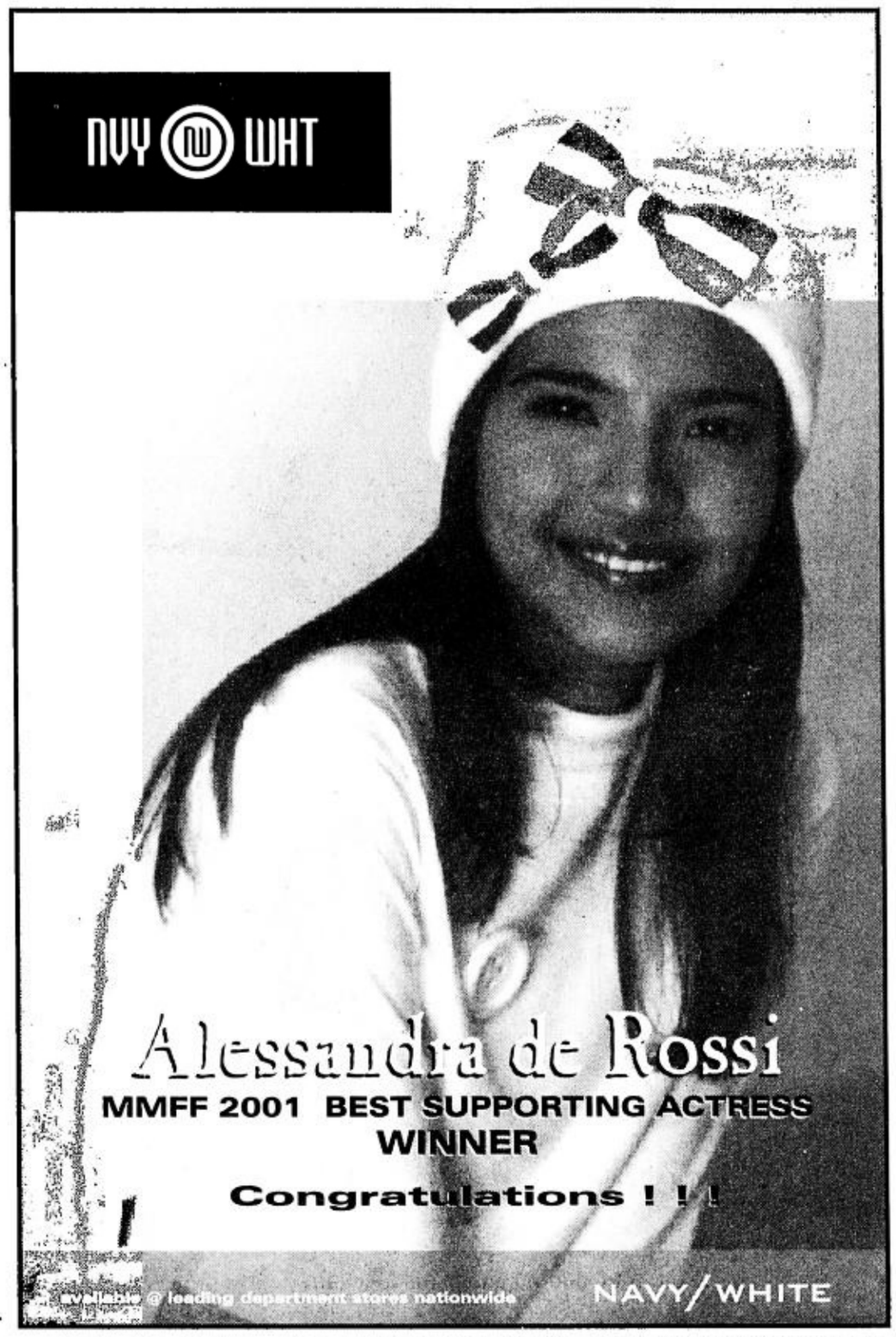
The region has been the target of almost daily air strikes since Jan. 3, when US forces began massive aerial bombardments upon finding signs that al-Qaida fighters were repopulating their former training bases there.

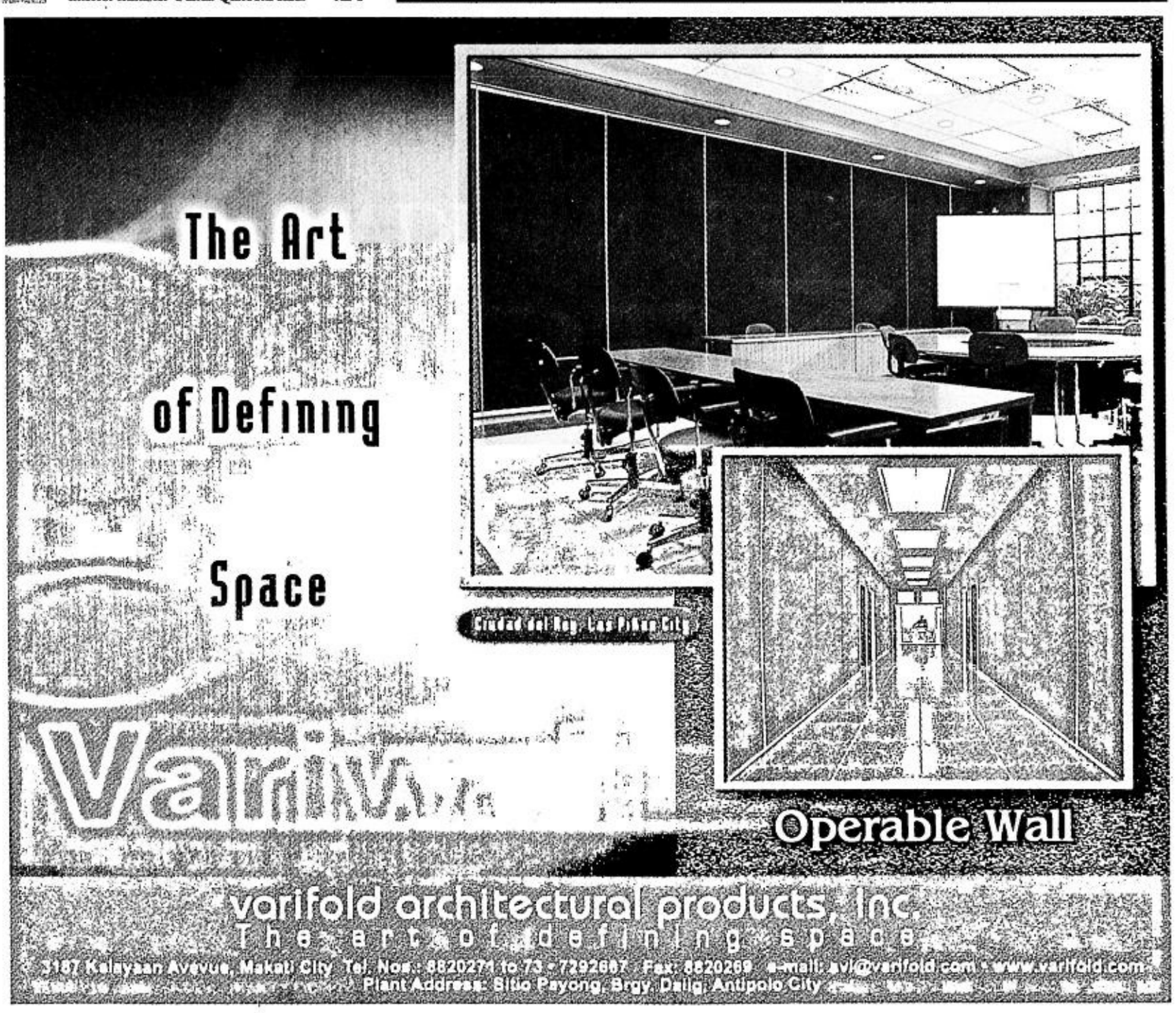
US-led coalition forces are still hunting Osama bin Laden, accused of masterminding the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, and the leadership of the ousted Taliban regime which sheltered his al-Qaida network.

But their efforts to apprehend and question senior cadres have been frustrated over recent weeks with the release of Taliban officials by provincial authorities in the southern province of Kandahar, the former bastion of the Islamic militia.

On Saturday the interim government added its voice to American criticism of the release of some eight Taliban officials, including the regime's former justice minister Nooruddin Turabi.

The Kandahar authorities allowed them to escape after they turned themselves in without seeking permission from the central government, interior minister Yunus Qanooni said. *AFP*





Department of Agrarian Reform
Adjudication Board (DARAB)
Annex Bldg., DAR Central Office Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a decision in **DARAB Case No. 5461** (Reg. Case No. IV-QuII-121-95) entitled **SPS. JOSE AVETRIA and PAULA AVETRIA versus HEIRS of ARTEMIO BATRALO represented by REYNALDO BATRALO** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on March 23, 2000.

Counsels and parties to this case particularly **Reynaldo Batralo** whose last known address was in **Brgy. Mayubok, Pitogo, Quezon** are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of the posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

January 9, 2002. Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

Inquirer-Jan. 14&21,2002

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Bush was 'in bed with Enron,' says watchdog

AUSTIN, Texas—US President George W. Bush, a prolific giver of nicknames, liked to call Ken Lay, the head of bankrupt energy giant Enron, "Kenny Boy."

But now that Lay is deeply embroiled in controversy, his name might as well be "Ken Who?"

As word came that Enron is now under federal criminal and congressional investigation for possible fraud, Bush this week downplayed his once close relationship with Lay, much to the dismay of his critics.

"President Bush's explanation of his relationship to Enron is at best a half truth," said Craig McDonald, head of Texans for Public Justice, a Texas government watchdog group.

"He was in bed with Enron before he ever held a political office."

Enron, its political action committee and its executives were the single largest source of campaign cash and support for Bush throughout his career, according to the Center for Public Integrity, a Washington-based government watchdog group.

The company also repeatedly provided corporate jets for campaign use and Lay personally donated $100,000 to help fund Bush's inauguration festivities early last year, records show.

Despite those ties, Bush distanced himself from Lay during an exchange with reporters this week. He noted that former Democratic Gov. Ann Richards, whom Bush defeated in 1994, had appointed Lay to a governor's business council.

"He was a supporter of Ann Richards in my run in 1994," Bush said. He said he decided to keep Lay on the business advisory group "for the sake of continuity" and suggested he had gotten to know him after taking office.

But campaign records suggest otherwise. While Lay's wife gave Richards $12,500 in 1994, Lay and his wife donated a combined $47,500 to Bush that same year, records show. All told, Enron and its executives gave Bush $146,500 in 1994 alone.

Several years later, Lay explained in a television interview that he supported Bush over Richards once he got into the governor's race because of his long standing relationship to the Bush family.

Indeed, their ties go beyond politics. Letters, interviews and published reports suggest Lay had unparalleled access to Bush and his administration, both in Washington and before, when Bush was the governor of Texas.

"George, Linda and I are incredibly proud of you and Laura," Lay wrote to Bush in 1997 after the then Texas governor put in a good word about Enron with officials in Pennsylvania, where the company was seeking regulatory relief.

They also swapped letters about their love of jogging and met as recently as last spring at a literacy event hosted by his mother, former First Lady Barbara Bush, in Houston.

Lay also visited the White House soon after Bush took office, the president said, but only as part of a group of about 20 other business leaders who were there to discuss the economy. *AFP*

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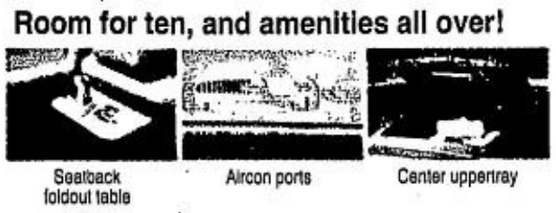

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Argentina calls IMF advice offensive

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentina's growing isolation from the world economy deepened on Saturday, with a top government official calling the IMF's advice on its troubled economy "offensive" and saying more time was needed to end a brutal recession.

Fresh from another wave of massive street protests this week as the weary nation digests a currency devaluation of nearly 30 percent, Vice Economy Minister Jorge Todesca lashed out at the International Monetary Fund, which on Friday called for a more "coherent" policy.

Coherent

Todesca said Argentina's new populist government was still trying to put together an economic plan that could win back support from the IMF and others who have turned their back on Latin America's third-largest economy in recent weeks as its long financial crisis spiraled out of control.

"We are working on a very coherent plan," Todesca said.

"Frankly, we don't need the IMF to be telling us every two minutes what course we should take when we've only been at this for seven days. They're doing it from 10,000 kilometers away and without much knowledge of the situation."

Foreign companies, banks and governments have voiced their concern in the last few days as new President Eduardo Duhalde, Argentina's fifth leader in the last month, has opted for policies widely seen as protectionist to end the slump.

Last month the IMF froze $1.3 billion in desperately needed aid after a previous government failed to control chronic government overspending. Since then, top IMF officials have reiterated that Argentina needs to implement new policies.

"They (the IMF) should really talk less, especially if they have nothing interesting to say, and they should let us work for a couple more days so we can stabilize the economy," Todesca told local radio. "Then we will have a plan to present to the Fund, so we can recover international aid."

Todesca, the No. 2 official at the economy ministry, said Argentina had received a letter from the IMF's first deputy managing director, Anne Krueger, who on Friday called the country's new dual currency regime "unsustainable."

Demands

"Just a few days after we came into government, Ms Krueger sent us a letter, which itself was quite incoherent, bringing up a series of points. It was unclear whether they were demands or not," Todesca said. "I consider it to be offensive for Argentina."

IMF spokesperson Francisco Baker declined to comment on Todesca's statements.

Argentina is mired in a four-year recession that has forced it to default on part of its $141 billion public debt and abandon its decade-old currency peg, which made one peso equal to one US dollar.

After street protests on Thursday night over an unpopular decision to freeze some bank deposits for a year, Duhalde must strike a delicate balance between pleasing a rapidly decaying middle class and not completely alienating private interests.

Failure to do so spelled doom for Duhalde's predecessors as two Argentine presidents resigned in the last month following violent riots and looting in anger at the recession. *Reuters*

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March 3, 2002 at the Central Business District II (South Bound Jeepney Terminal Complex), NAGA
March 10, 2002 at the Palawan Sports Complex, PUERTO PRINCESA
March 17, 2002 at the Agro Industrial Foundation Grounds, DAVAO
April 7, 2002 at the Melvin Jones Field, BAGUIO
April 14, 2002 at the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Complex, CAGAYAN DE ORO
April 28, 2002 at the Roxas Mem. College of Arts and Trade (RMCAT), KALIBO
May 12, 2002 at the Rizal Park, MANILA

Picture shown above is an example of a Figure Kite.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit no. 0976 series of 2001

Michel Legrand holds two-night Valentine concert in Manila

Lovers of excellent romantic music are in for a once-in-a-lifetime treat when renowned French composer, pianist and singer Michel Legrand visits Manila for the first time this February for a two-night limited engagement concert series at the PICC Plenary Hall. Considered as one of the few remaining masters of contemporary music, Michel Legrand brings with him a treasure trove of musical gems created through more than four decades of remarkable career on film, stage and recording.

Paris-born Michel Legrand is the son of Raymond Legrand, who was, at one time France's most popular composer/conductor.

A child prodigy, Michel entered the Paris Conservatory at the age of eleven. at 20, he emerged as a solo pianist with top honors in composition. Legrand, who is one of the few composers to maintain a high profile in both Europe and America, first came to public attention at the age of 22 when he arranged and conducted the best - selling instrumental recording of *I Love Paris* which topped the album charts on both sides of the Atlantic for several months. He now has 100 LP's to his credit.

In 1964 Legrand collaborated with French director Jacques Demy on **Les Parapluies de Cherbourg** where he created a new genre for film scores. The film was unique in that every word of dialogue was sung, recitative style, to Legrand's score. Several now-classic songs came from that film including *I Will Wait For You* and *Watch What Happens.*

After moving to Hollywood in 1968, Legrand won his first Oscar for *The Windmills of Your Mind*, from Norman Jewison's **The Thomas Crown Affair.** He received an additional nomination for his scoring of Demy's **The Young Girls of Rochefort**, a sequel to **Les Parapluies de Cherbourg**. This follow-up produced the moving *You Must Believe in Spring*, which launched a fertile creative partnership with the acclaimed husband-and-wife lyricist team of Alan and Marilyn Bergman. The following year, Legrand reunited with the Bergmans to produce the striking ballad *What Are You Doing The Rest of Your Life?* for Richard Brooks' **The Happy Ending.**

In 1972, Legrand won his second Oscar, this time for his nostalgic score for Robert Mulligan's romantic drama **Summer of '42**. The memorable title song The Summer Knows was a major factor in propelling the film to success and this song has since become a well-loved standard. The music eloquently expresses the theme of lost innocence.

In the early 80's, Barbra Streisand herself asked Michel to do the complete soundtrack of her debut project as film producer, **Yentl**-a film musicale which starred Barbra in the title role. He set to music the lyrics written by Alan and Marilyn Bergman and went on to win his third Oscar for Best Original Score. Described by Time Magazine as "the most romantic, coherent and sophisticated original movie score since Gigi a quarter of a century ago", Yentl produced such classics as *Papa Can You Hear Me?*, *No Matter What Happens* and *A Piece of Sky.*

Yentl won for Michel his 3rd Academy Award for Best Original Score in 1983.

In his illustrious career, he has conducted and appeared with many of the world's leading orchestras and has collaborated with such stars as Edith Piaf, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Kiri Te Kanawa, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Lena Horne, Neil Diamond, Stan Getz, Quincy Jones and of course, Ms. Barbra Streisand.

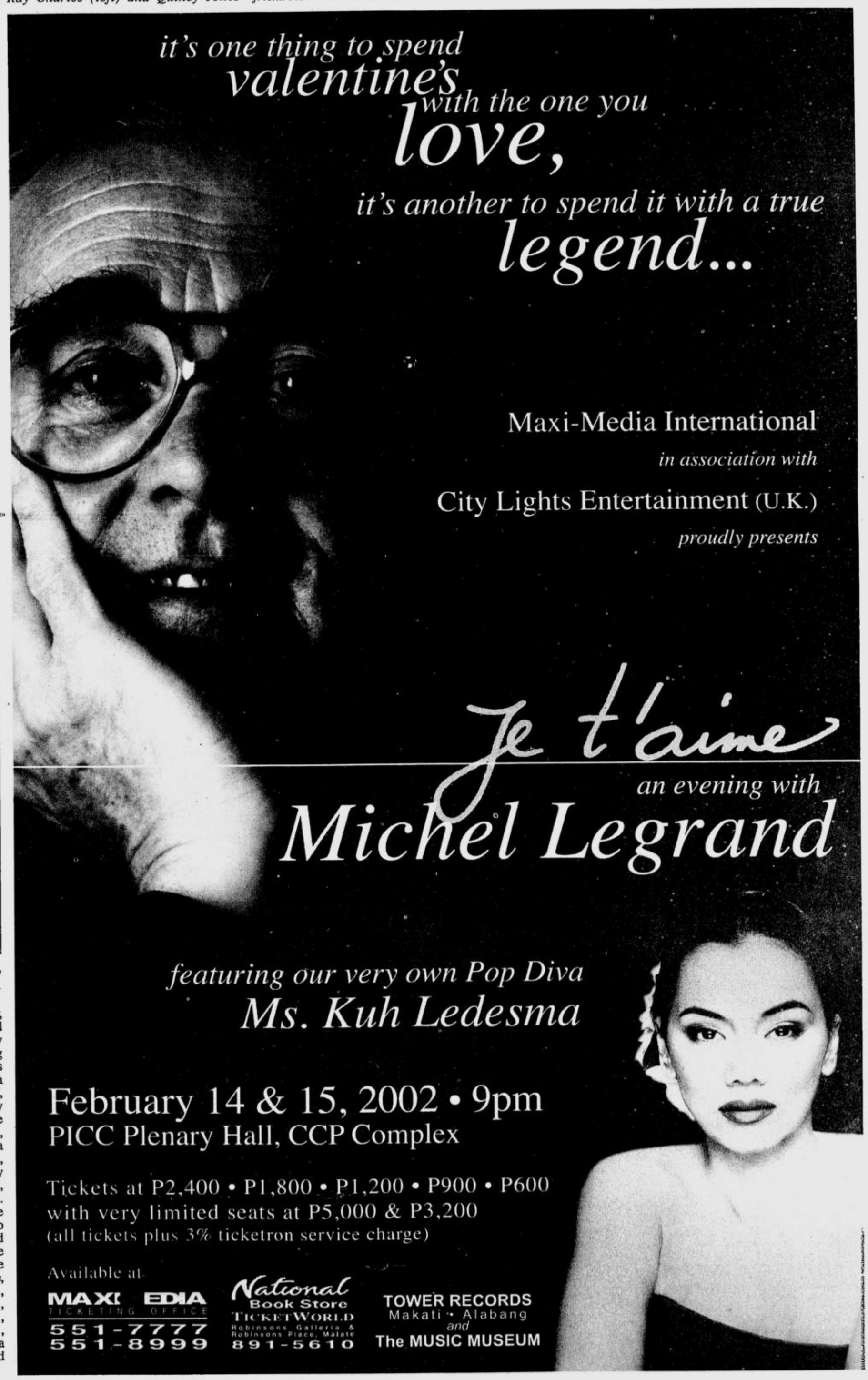
Amongst the many performers who have recorded Legrand's songs are Frank Sinatra, Jessye Norman, Nina Simone, Johnny Mathis, Sarah Vaughan, Henry Mancini, Tony Bennett, Shirley Bassey, Liza Minnelli, and Diana Ross.

In a recording session with Soul Legends Ray Charles (left) and Quincy Jones

Partying with favorite Diva and good friend Ms. Barbra Streisand.

It has been said that whoever is fortunate enough to sing Legrand with Legrand can count on something very special. The composer demands the utmost from his vocalists, musicians, producers and technical staff. Nothing escapes him, as he goes on until even the smallest detail has met his high standards. For his Manila concerts, our very own Pop Diva Kuh Ledesma will have the rare privilege to interpret Mr. Legrand's classic songs, giving the French master a sampling of Filipino talent at its finest.

Michel Legrand's Philippine engagement is the result of years of intense negotiation and scheduling by Maxi-Media International, the production company mounting Legrand's concerts in Manila. For inquiries and ticket reservations, you may call them at 551-7777 or 551-8999.



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TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

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c/o Cebu Daily News
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Mayor reveals kidnapping 'links'

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte yesterday linked a relative of the former president of a state university, a police superintendent, an employee of the Davao del Sur provincial government and former members of Moro rebel groups to the Pentagon kidnap syndicate.

Duterte said intelligence information gathered by his office showed that the Pentagon, which was formed in 1999, is composed of breakaway factions of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Duterte, in his weekly radio show, yesterday read several names of people he accused of having links with the Pentagon.

The list included Tahir Alonto, who serves as the group's spokesperson, and Faisal Marohombsar or Marohomsalik Jr., who is reportedly a relative of the former president of the Mindanao State University, Emil Marohombsar.

Duterte said Faisal, who reportedly served as a bodyguard of the MSU president, was based in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat.

Faisal also carries an identification card of the National Bureau of Investigation and a military ID identifying him as Colonel Reyes, the mayor added.

The Pentagon was tagged in the kidnapping of businesswoman Jean Tan in Digos City, Martina Martin in Tagum City and Pierre Belanger in Davao del Sur.

Duterte also named a certain Pintot, allegedly an employee of the Davao del Sur provincial capitol; and a Commander Boy Hashim and Saguil Maulana, who reportedly have links with the kidnap group.

Two members of the Philippine National Police, one of whom is a superintendent, allegedly serve as contacts of the group. Duterte did not read the names of the police officers.

Duterte said 20 to 25 persons had direct links to the Pentagon operating in General Santos City and Davao.

The group has several safehouses in Digos, Malalag and Hagonoy in Davao del Sur; Batutitik in General Santos; and Sirawan, Davao City, he said.

He said that in Digos, one of the safehouses is on Lim Street.

These people, he said, easily evaded government surveillance because their victims were handed over to their links.

"We have spent time and money to get these information. We know their families and children, and we had taken pictures of them with the use of sophisticated equipment. We will know where we will go. What you know and what you can do, we do know. We are on equal footing now," Duterte said.

DUTERTE

He added that he would ask Malacañang to allow military and police forces to enter rebel camps to look for the members of the kidnap group.

"I don't care about the peace process. I have been supporting the creation of the Bangsamoro land. But if they also engage in gangsterism, we would never understand each other," Duterte said.

In Davao City alone, Duterte said, police have always wanted to enter the Muslim community of Sirawan because of suspicion that kidnappers have been hiding there.

Duterte, who is chair of the regional peace and order council, said he has been protecting the dignity of Muslims as a people.

Aside from kidnapping activities, Duterte said the group is into drug trafficking.

The group has a fleet of vehicles consisting of a blue and white Toyota Corolla car, L-300 vans, several motorcycles and twin-engine seacraft, he added.

Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said he fully supported Duterte's way of dealing with the kidnappers.

Piñol, who is also president of the Confederation of Mindanao Governors and Mayors, said he would come up with a similar list of kidnappers operating in his area.

He said he has identified at least 30 kidnap gang leaders and members in the province. ***Ayan Mellejor, Anthony Allada and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

GMA orders homes given to 3,500 Cavite families

AT LEAST 3,500 families occupying portions of an abandoned property of the Filoil refinery in Rosario, Cavite, are set to benefit from President Macapagal-Arroyo's socialized housing program.

In a statement, Thelmo Cunanan, Philippine National Oil Co. president, said the project was the PNOC's response to the administration's call for houses for the country's poor.

The statement said Filoil Management and Development Corp., the real estate arm of the PNOC, has set aside P100 million for the socialized housing project in Rosario.

The President will officially launch the project on Jan. 16, it said. The lot on which the families have built makeshift houses would be donated by the PNOC.

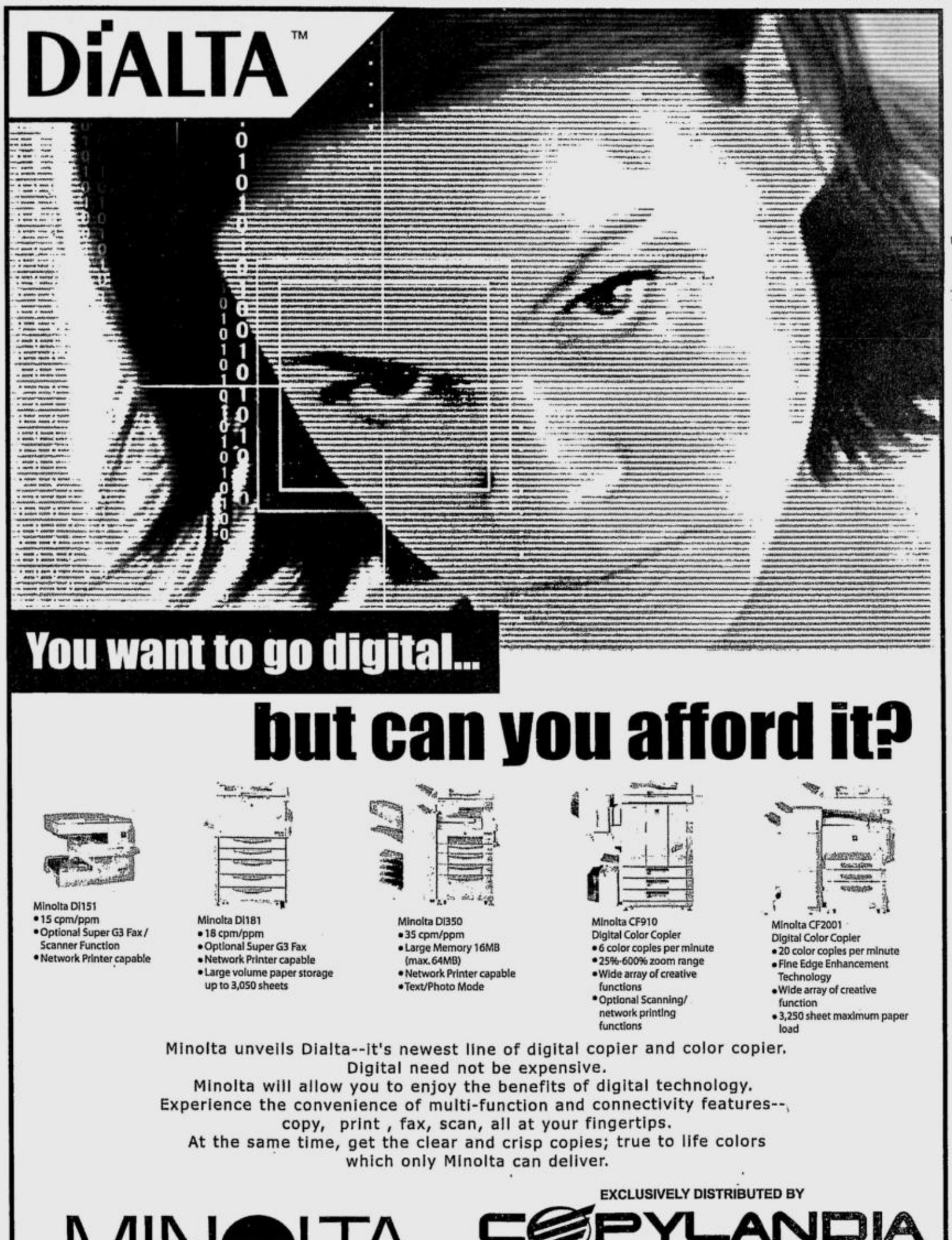
Cirilo Martinez, Filoil head, was quoted in the statement as saying more than 25 hectares of the 118 hectares of Filoil property were earmarked for the project which would be carried out with the help of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

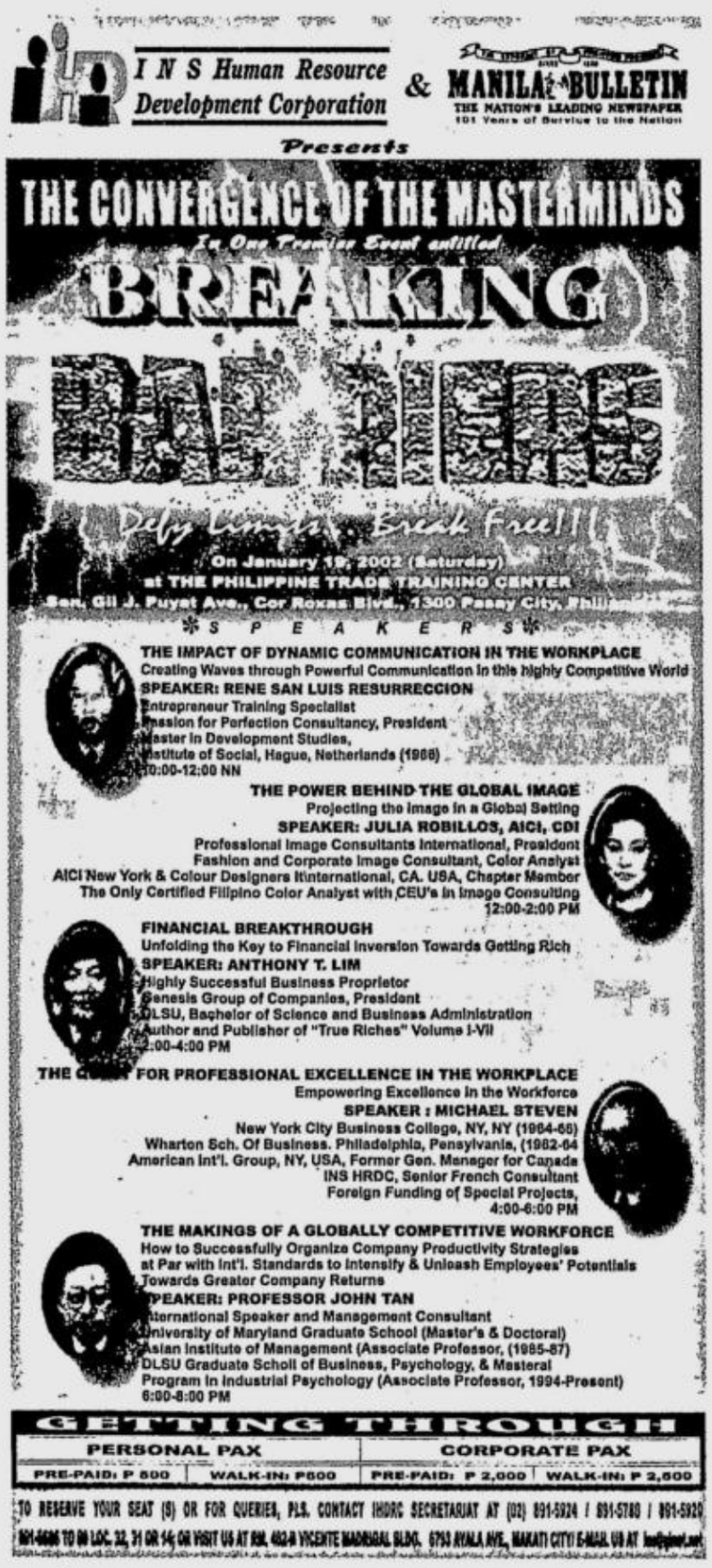
According to Martinez, the project was made possible through Executive Order No. 59, which was signed by the President recently.

He said construction of an initial 143 units with an area of 40 square meters each has started on one hectare of the property. A second phase will provide 357 units.

Martinez was quoted by the statement as saying that between 1,000 and 2,000 units would have to be built to accommodate the families. Those who would choose to retain their homes would be asked to pay only for the land on which they had built their houses.

Families who would receive units, which would cost only about P180,000 each, would be asked to pay less than P1,000 a month, said Martinez.





Cops say suspects in Bohol kidnap now in Leyte

BY CHITO A. FUENTES
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The two remaining suspects in the kidnapping of two siblings here last week are believed to have fled to Leyte, a top police official said.

Supt. Louie Oppus, city police chief, said investigators found that the suspects, Noel Fernandez and Romeo Laguitao, had planned to take a boat in Ubay town bound for Leyte.

"We learned about their plans from relatives of Laguitao's brother-in-law in Jagna town where (Fernandez and Laguitao) went last Jan. 10," he said.

From Jagna, he added, probers believed that the suspects took a boat to Leyte where Laguitao's wife has several relatives.

Oppus said the police already informed the Cebu City-based Police Regional Office about the plan in order "to coordinate with other units where the suspects were expected to go."

Fernandez, Laguitao and Jaime Agad are facing kidnapping charges before the city prosecutor's office for the abduction of Ruth Adante, 14, and her brother John, 12, on Jan. 7.

It was the first reported kidnapping incident in Bohol.

Agad, 28, of Barangay Calinginan Norte, Sevilla, surrendered on Jan. 10 to the town police. He was accompanied by Cambague barangay chair Luisito Daga-ang.

He told the police that he did not know about the plan to kidnap the Adante siblings until it was too late for him to back out. He claimed that he accepted a job offered by Fernandez without knowing what he was supposed to do.

Agad said Fernandez and Laguitao fetched him from his home in the early morning of Jan.7 and they proceeded to the Bohol Wisdom School (BWS) in here, purportedly to see their employer.

He said he was surprised when Fernandez suddenly poked his gun at the neck of Teodorica Adante as she entered the family-owned maroon Mitsubishi Adventure van with her two children.

One of the kidnappers drove the van to Barangay Cambague, took the kids and gave the van back to Teodorica with instructions for her to return between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. with P1.5 million in ransom.

Unknown to thems, Teodorica had already cooperated with the police. She returned to the village with P50,000 as "show money" while policemen positioned themselves near the meeting place.

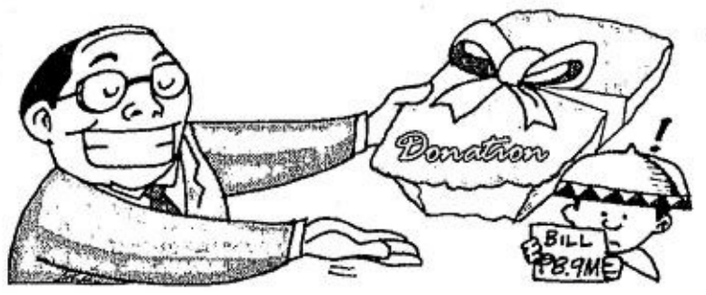
Agad said Teodorica showed up in Cambague at about 8 p.m. and they immediately got into her van. But Fernandez sensed the presence of the police, ordered Teodorica to stop the van and grabbed the bag containing the money as he jumped out with the other kidnappers.

Agad said they hid in a forest until 1 a.m. and returned to his house where Fernandez gave him P10,000.

A driver of a *habal-habal* (rented motorcycle) told the police that the suspects hired his vehicle to drive them from Sevilla to Barangay Marawis, Valencia town. Laguitao grew up in Marawis, a remote mountain village.

After spending the night in Marawis, the driver said he brought the three suspects to Jagna where they revealed to him their plans to take a motorized boat to Leyte, using one of the bancas that ply the Ubay-Leyte route.

Ubay is 60.39 kilometers from Jagna and 123.49 km north of here.



City faces suit for failing to name road after magnate

BY ALEX V. PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Carlos A. Gothong Shipping Lines has sued the city government, demanding P8.9 million in payment for a piece of property that the company initially intended to donate to the city.

Gothong Lines president Bowen Gothong said in his complaint that the city government reneged on its promise to name a portion of the 1,274 square meter property as "Don Carlos Gothong Avenue."

The property was donated to the city government in 1999 and was made the Looc bypass road. Gothong said the family's only condition for the donation was that a portion be named after its founding chair, but the city government did not honor the promise.

Now, he said, they want the city government to pay P8.9 million for the piece of property based on the fair market value of P5,000 per sqm, including attorneys' fees and litigation costs.

Gothong filed the civil case before the regional trial court on Dec. 19, but the city government received a copy of the complaint only last week.

The case was filed after the shipping company sent the city government a demand letter on Nov. 22, which did not specify a time frame for the city government to comply with the supposed condition.

The Looc bypass road, which connects Hibbard Avenue and Flores Avenue along the coastline, was constructed during the term of Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo, who lost to now Mayor Agustin Perdices.

But Remollo, in a phone interview, said he did not agree to name the road Don Carlos Gothong Avenue because there were other donors. "There was never an agreement to pay at fair market value," he added.

He, however, admitted that without Gothong, the bypass road project could not have been started because the work began at their property.

Acting city legal officer Neil Ray Lagahit said the city government would ask the court to dismiss the charges on the ground that the filing of the case was premature as the city government has not yet named the new road.

He also pointed out that there was no evidence to show that the city government breached the alleged condition mentioned by Gothong because there was no formal deed of donation.

Remollo confirmed that there has been no such deed because Gothong kept on postponing the signing until a new mayor took over.

Remollo expressed surprise at why Gothong waited until his term ended before making the demand.

"Why are these happening only now? I pity Mayor Perdices because the city has so many problems already," Remollo said.

Perdices said the city government was not in a position to pay the Gothongs because it was suffering from lack of funds.

Remollo said that if the city government has to pay, it should not be based on the prevailing market value of P5,000 per sqm but on the market value at the time the Looc bypass road was not yet completed, which could not exceed P200 per sqm.

"The city government could even (collect money from) Gothong and the other landowners because the value of their remaining (pieces of) property have increased more than seven times because of the Looc bypass road," he said.

Council declares Butuan under state of calamity

BUTUAN CITY—Officials have declared this city under a state of calamity after the disaster coordinating council reported that flooding damaged at least P58.4 million worth of crops and infrastructure facilities.

The city engineer's office said damage to infrastructure could reach P25.3 million, while the city agriculturist's office said damages to crops and livestock reached P33,138,670.

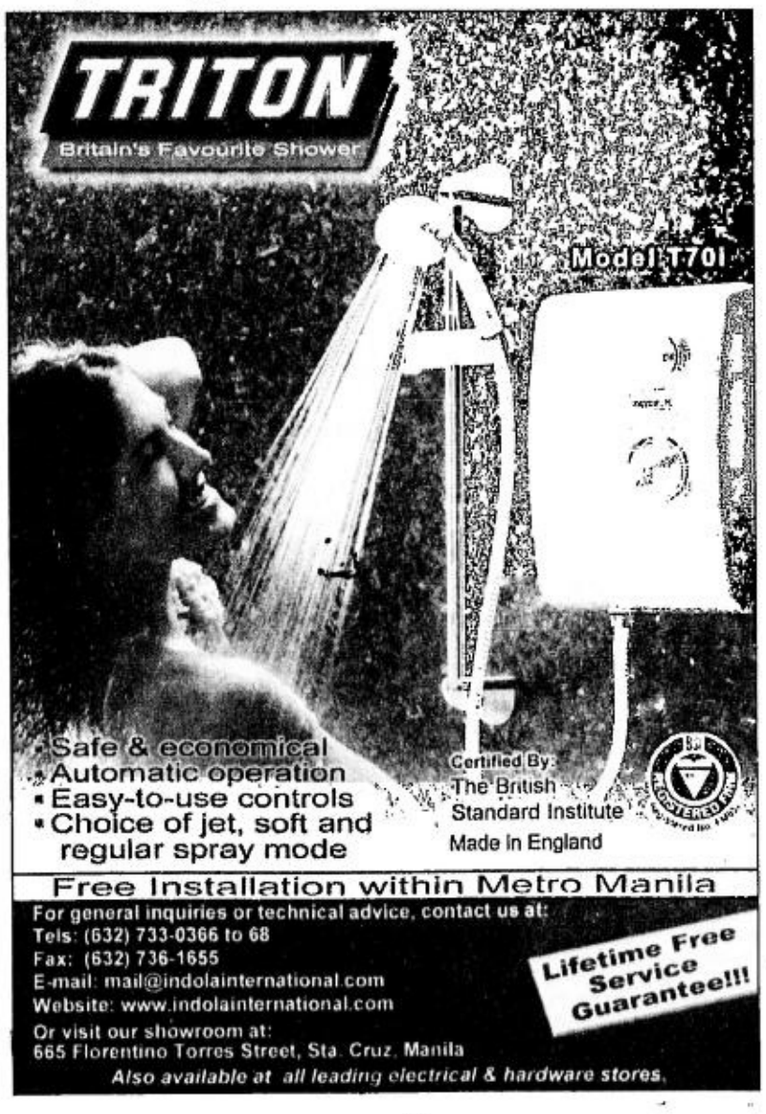
At least 2,514 hectares of farms, mostly ricefields, were damaged by the floods.

Rains since late last month and flooding in nearby provinces have caused the swelling of the Agusan River, inundating 30 low-lying riverside villages and displaced 3,750 families or 16,875 persons.

A total of 936 families sought shelter in 21 evacuation centers.

Critics assailed the city council its late declaration of the state of calamity after the sun started to shine on Wednesday.

Councilor Ryan Culima, however, defended the move, saying the city council had to first assess the damage before placing the city under a state of calamity. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



Zambo Norte school has 3 'presidents'

DIPOLOG CITY—Tension continued to grip the state-run Jose Rizal Memorial State College in Zamboanga del Norte as two officers-in-charge—one "anointed" by jailed Rep. Romeo Jalosjos and the other appointed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd)—battled for the position of school head.

As this developed, the Land Bank of the Philippines announced that it was freezing the funds of the school until the row is settled.

Concerned employees said the freeze order could delay the salaries and wages of more than 200 personnel.

Dr. Wilfredo Albos, who took over as officer-in-charge at the behest of Jalosjos, refused to step down even after the installation of Dr. Bernadette Tan by the CHEd.

Tan was designated OIC by commission chair Ester Garcia last year after Garcia suspended school president Felipe Ligan on charges of sexual harassment.

Ligan retired last December but managed to install Albos as OIC.

Several faculty members said that although he retired and had installed a successor, Ligan was still presiding over meetings of top school officials.

"Now we have three presidents here. We have Albos, who assumed office based on a resolution of the board of trustees organized by Ligan himself, Dr. Tan who was designated by the CHEd, and Dr. Ligan himself who still presides (over) meetings as if he was not suspended and retired," an instructor told the INQUIRER.

The source also said deans and department heads, who were appointed by Ligan, refused to recognize Tan.

The row in the state-owned college forced the Land Bank to freeze its fund.

On Tuesday, Land Bank-Dipolog branch Manager Augusto Galoso announced that he stopped the disbursement of the school's deposits "as a consequence of the ongoing imbroglio."

"While the bank's legal division studies the documents (presented by Albos and Tan), all transactions of the school are held in abeyance," Galoso told reporters. *Lullie Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NBI files graft, fraud raps vs top Cagayan Napocor execs

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The National Bureau of Investigation has filed graft charges against the regional chief of the National Power Corp. and six other officials for alleged malversation, fraud and abuse of authority.

The charges stemmed from a petition filed by about 60 employees of the regional office of the Napocor's Transmission Co. (Transco) against Marcelo Ganaden, Napocor manager for Cagayan Valley, and other top Napocor officials who were named in the complaint as Ganaden's supposed cohorts.

Lawyer Norman Taloza, NBI district chief here, endorsed the filing of six charges—three for malversation and graft and three for fraud—against Ganaden and the other officials before the provincial prosecutors' offices in Cagayan, Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya.

"We could sense that these (alleged irregularities) were just the tip of the iceberg. More charges will follow," Taloza said.

Other accused

Also charged in the complaints were Napocor district managers Jose Bautista, Virgilio Rimando and Alexander Alvarez; engineers Ernesto Narciso and Oscar Mina; and Napocor personnel Diana Cabauatan and Josephine Atal.

When contacted for comment, Ganaden denied the charges.

"These (allegations) are all baseless," he said. "These can never happen because we have an internal audit team (in the Napocor) and (a) COA (Commission on Audit) team that check all these (transactions)."

He added that the irregularities cited by the complainants were a mere rehash of past allegations, of which he was earlier cleared by a Napocor internal audit team.

In their sworn statements, copies of which were obtained by the INQUIRER, the complainants accused Ganaden of allegedly using his position to manipulate and corner project contracts of the Napocor.

Dummies

The complainants said Ganaden did this through the use of alleged dummy contractors and suppliers.

Ganaden allegedly caused the "splitting" of contracts so that a project cost would fall below P100,000, which is within Ganaden's authority to approve as regional head.

Through this scheme, Ganaden could avoid putting the contracts through public biddings. Contracts worth below P100,000 may be awarded without public bidding under Napocor rules.

Without a bidding, Ganaden could then award the project to favored contractors, many of which, the complainants said, were "ghost companies."

The employees also claimed that Ganaden arbitrarily imposed on them the selling of booklets of raffle tickets as a fund-raising scheme for supposed Napocor charity projects.

The drawing of raffle winners, however, never took place, and the proceeds were never accounted for, they claimed.

Pieces of evidence submitted by the NBI include the statements of Napocor finance employees and individuals whose names were purportedly used by Ganaden as dummies for project contracts.

Names used

Two of the witnesses, Randy de Gracia and Jojo Mateo, claimed that their names were used on separate occasions as supposed private contractors for the assembly, erection and mounting of beams, gantry towers and steel towers at the Napocor Tuguegarao City substation.

They admitted that they did not perform any work on the towers. Napocor linesmen claimed that it was actually they who worked on the project, purportedly upon orders of their district managers.

De Gracia and Mateo claimed that they were instructed to encash the checks as payment for their "completed" contracts.

In their petition, the employees also assailed Ganaden for the "arbitrary" and "unjust" relief or transfer of many Transco employees who "do not suit his whims and caprices."

Quoting the complainants, Taloza said the alleged irregularities and the management crisis in the regional Napocor office have been causing demoralization among rank-and-file employees.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Tribal folk seek power in ARMM

COTABATO CITY—Tribal leaders in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have asked leaders of the expanded autonomous region to appoint a deputy governor for cultural communities in the region.

But even as the tribal leaders issued the call, it was learned that about a dozen aspirants have already started lobbying for the post.

Sources said some of those aspiring to become the representative of the cultural communities were not actual inhabitants of the region.

Under Republic Act No. 9054, the law that expanded the autonomous region, indigenous communities are entitled to representation in the regional government, which means a seat in the ARMM's lawmaking body.

The same is true for Christians.

Under RA 9054, newly assumed Gov. Parouk Hussin has the power to appoint deputy governors each to represent Muslims, Christians and tribal folk to help him manage the affairs of the expanded autonomous government.

Wrong person

Rene Batitaw, a member of the influential group of the Tiruray and Lambangian tribes in Maguindanao, expressed fears that non-tribal folk would get the seat intended for them.

"We heard (that) many applicants were now lobbying for the post. We just hope (that) the one (who) gets it (deputy governor position) really belongs to the indigenous communities," he said.

Batitaw said Maguindanao's tribal communities have many qualified leaders from whom Hussin can choose.

Rep. Ronald Adamat, representing the indigenous communities in the House of Representatives, said the position intended for the minorities would guarantee the involvement of the Tiruray and Lambangian tribes in governing the ARMM.

Adamat, a Tiruray *timuay* or chieftain, said the indigenous communities have been silent for several decades over the tribe's plight and the problems hounding its people.

Involvement

"We have been longing to be involved in governance, especially if it concerns our people."

When President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the ARMM and installed Hussin as the duly elected governor, she never mentioned any package for the cultural minorities.

Hussin has yet to outline plans for the tribal people in the expanded autonomy, now composed of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Marawi City.

"What is in store for us?" Batitaw asked following Hussin's assumption to power.

Tiruray *timuay* Ramon Piang, now mayor of Upi, Maguindanao, said he was willing to help the regional governor in identifying tribal leaders who can be named Hussin's deputy.

Sources in the ARMM executive office said some aspirants have folders containing certificates that they represent certain tribal groups.

There are more than 30,000 Tiruray and Lambangian natives in Maguindanao.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience stormy weather. Central Luzon will experience widespread rains. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 22° Lo 09°
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Hi 29° Lo 17°
Laoag	Stormy	Hi 30° Lo 19°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Cebu	Rainy	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°

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- Double Glass oven door
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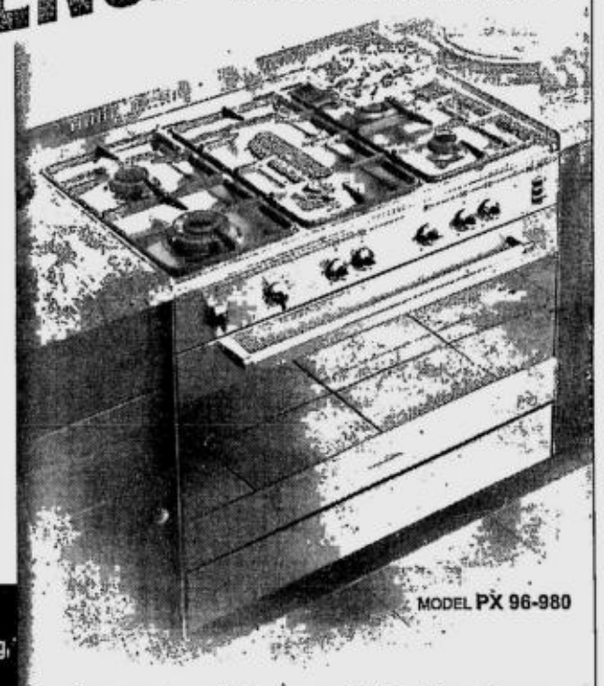
- Dishwarmer
- Adjustable legs
- Overall dimensions: 900 x 600 x 850 (WxDxH)



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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Holders of the following European currencies have only until **January 25, 2002** to change these into Philippine pesos at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

CURRENCY	COUNTRY
Austrian Schilling	Austria
Belgian Franc	Belgium
Finnish Markka	Finland
French Franc	France
Deutsche Mark	Germany
Greek Drachma	Greece
Irish Punt	Ireland
Italian Lire	Italy
Luxembourg Franc	Luxembourg
Netherlands Guilder	Netherlands
Portuguese Escudo	Portugal
Spanish Peseta	Spain

These old national currencies are now being withdrawn from circulation following the introduction of a single European currency called the Euro by the European Central Bank.

As a public service, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has been assisting banks in converting these 12 currencies into pesos. The public may change their currencies at the Cash Department of BSP at A. Mabini, Manila (Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 nn. and 1:00-2:00 p.m.), or at the Cash Operations Units of BSP's 19 branches in the following areas:

LUZON
San Fernando, La Union
Angeles City
Batac, Ilocos Norte
Cabanatuan City
Dagupan City
Legazpi City
Lucena City
Naga City
Tuguegarao, Cagayan

VISAYAS
Cebu City
Bacolod City
Dumaguete City
Iloilo City
Kalibo, Aklan
Tacloban City

MINDANAO
Davao City
Cagayan de Oro City
Cotabato City
Zamboanga City

After **January 25, 2002,** these currencies may be redeemed only at the country of origin.

For more information, please contact Director Teresita Manigque of the BSP Cash Department at Tel. No. 525-3082, or Director Fe de la Cruz of the Public Information, Relations and Special Events Office at Tel. No. 523-4832; or Fax No. 523-6210 or pirseo@bsp.gov.ph

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The MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY and TheirVOLUNTEER WORKERS IN TONDO, MANILA

in a SPECIAL ACADEMIC CONVOCATION
to be held at three o'clock in the afternoon
of Wednesday, January 16, 2002
at the Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat
Mendiola, Manila.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Metro policemen placed on full alert

(From page A1)

With Task Force Libra now on battle footing, Tiglao said, "there (was) no need to send additional troops to Metro Manila."

Palace sources said last week that trusted lieutenants of the President had reportedly secured commitments from both the Iglesia ni Cristo and the El Shaddai charismatic movement that they will not join anti-government mass actions.

Lumbao manhunt

Police authorities have launched a new manhunt against Ronald Lumbao, national chair of the pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), who has been identified as among the ringleaders of an alleged plan to stage an Edsa IV uprising.

Maralit clarified yesterday, however, that the hunt was based on an old warrant of arrest "because of his participation in the May 1 attack." The warrant has not been served.

Maralit told defense reporters that he could not confirm reports that Lumbao was involved in a new coup plot.

The PMAP yesterday denied it was collaborating with the People's Consultative Assembly in an alleged plot to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

Arnold Obina, PMAP spokesperson, said his group would not support any power grab since it would only benefit Vice President Teofisto Guingona or a "lackey" of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

"We are not talking with the PCA or Mrs. Linda Montayre," Obina said. "How could we support a power grab with Guingona or a Ramos lackey as beneficiary?"

The group also denied it would join forces with the PCA for a series of protest actions in time for the government-led celebration of People Power I and II.

Instead, Obina said his group would stage "peaceful" mass actions to express their growing contempt for Ms Macapagal for her alleged failure to deliver on her Edsa II promises.

Partido ng Masang Pilipino spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla came to Lumbao's defense.

In a phone interview yesterday, he criticized the Macapagal administration for being "selective and discriminatory" in cracking down on personalities who allegedly figured in last year's violent May 1 uprising.

He said the statements the government attributed to Lumbao might have also been uttered by politicians who spoke at the pro-Estrada rally at the Edsa Shrine last year.

Remulla was referring to Estrada's key political allies who ran on the Puwersa ng Masa senatorial ticket in the May 14 polls.

Yet those politicians were not included in the rebellion charges, Remulla said.

Macapagal apology

The PMAP called on the President to apologize to the poor who voted in overwhelming numbers for Estrada.

Obina said Macapagal must admit that she has "wronged and hoodwinked the people, and that Edsa II is a plain and simple power grab which succeeded mainly because of the coup by the military's top brass against their duly constituted commander in chief."

The group also challenged Malacañang to prove its sincerity and initiate confidence-building measures with its critics by dropping the rebellion charges against Lumbao and by allowing Estrada to post bail and seek medical treatment abroad.

Remulla followed the same tack, calling on Ms Macapagal to issue "an apology to President Estrada for national healing to truly begin."

The apology, he said, should also be addressed to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, whom military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus had accused "without basis" of links to drug trafficking, kidnapping and other criminal activities.

Instead of offering to dialogue only with her estranged Edsa II allies, he added that the President should also reach out to the "true opposition (the Estrada camp) and those really hurt by Edsa II—the *masa*."

The apology should be followed by acts stopping the "cruelty" being inflicted on the jailed ex-President, which should not continue "given his stature," he said.

Such gestures include having state prosecutors agree with the motion to place Estrada and co-accused son Jinggoy under house arrest, and allowing the elder Estrada to undergo knee surgery in the United States.

"There's really no cause to celebrate Edsa II because it only divided the nation. It will only hurt the *masa* even more if it is celebrated," he said.

Edsa activities

The Edsa II commemoration will start on Jan. 16 and peak on Jan. 20, the day Ms Macapagal took her oath as President.

Tiglao said Malacañang has issued guidelines to police and security forces "to make sure that groups joining the Mass at Edsa would have no other agenda but to air their feelings."

He confirmed that the original plan to commemorate Edsa II—dispersed events held in urban poor communities—has been modified. Now, the plan is to have one big assembly at the shrine on Jan. 20.

"The decision was made to have the commemoration at the Edsa Shrine," Tiglao said. But "it is still going to be austere, unlike in the past when there were fireworks."

Tiglao also rejected a call by Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. for Ms Macapagal to publicly disavow her reelection plans in 2004 in order to unite the nation.

"It's a non-issue at this point. We don't think it's an issue," Tiglao said. ***With reports from Christian Esguerra and Volt Contreras***

Malacañang reels from poll findings

(From page A1)

While Tiglao routinely releases written statements on Saturdays, he hardly does so on Sundays. Palace reporters wanting to get a reaction from Tiglao on Sundays have to call him on his mobile phone.

The Pulse Asia survey, which was conducted in December, also found that most Filipinos felt that their quality of life deteriorated in 2001.

In his statement, Tiglao enumerated the gains of the administration vis-à-vis what the President had pledged in her first Sona:

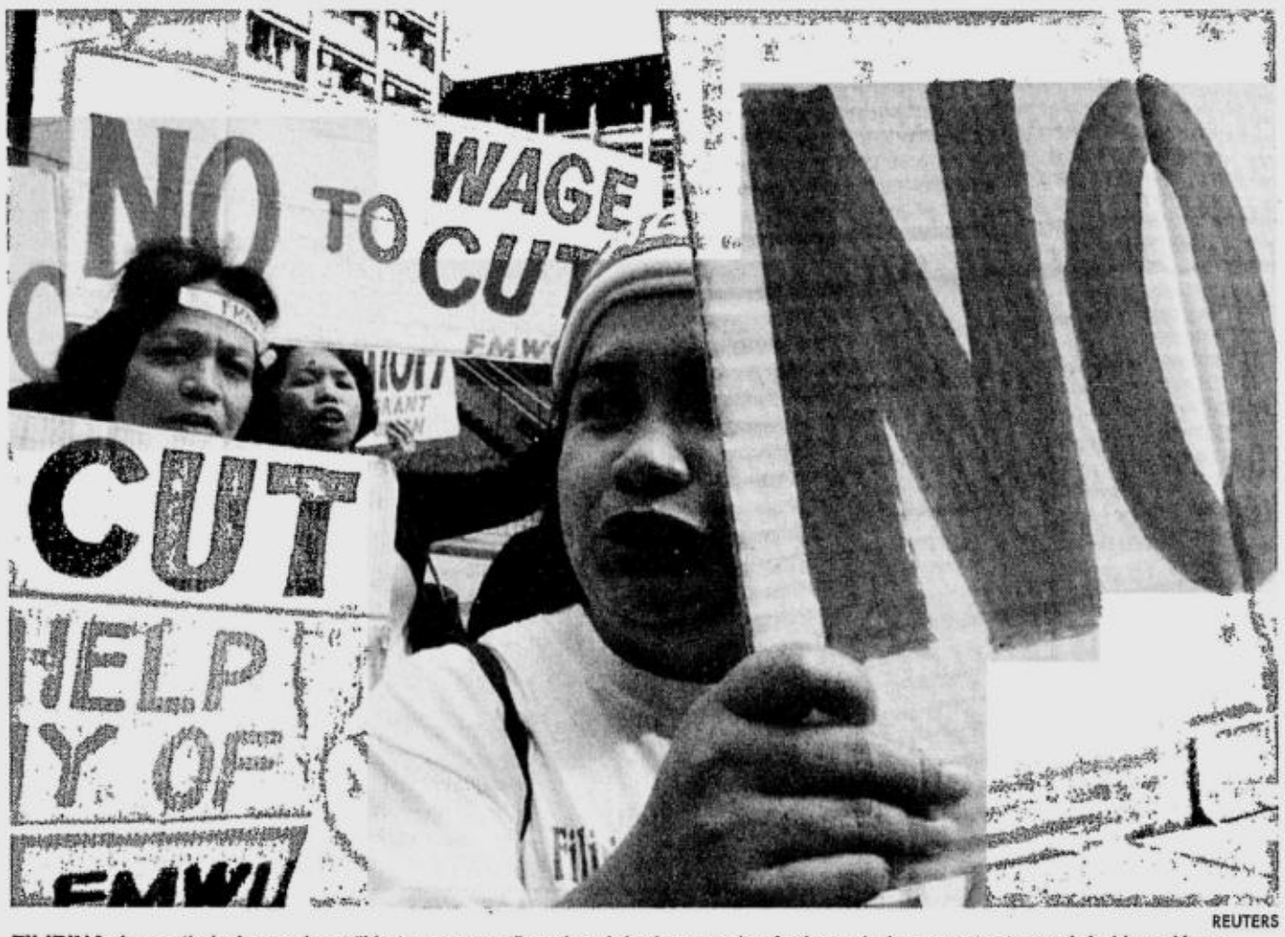
- Pledge: Distribute in one year 100,000 hectares of land under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Result: 101,615 hectares distributed in 2001.
- Deploy 1,000 rolling stores selling rice at P14 per kilo to urban and rural poor communities. Result: 1,254 stores deployed as of December.
- Allocate P20 billion per year for agriculture modernization. Result: P21 billion allocated in the 2001 expenditure program.
- Provide socialized housing units to 50,000 urban dwellers. Result: A total of 25,822 households got "land tenure" and housing units. The figure included households whose slum communities were upgraded.
- Cut by half the prices of medicine taken by the poor. Result: 78 government hospitals now sell medicine at half the price.
- Generate 1 million jobs by 2004. Result: 203,745 jobs generated as of November 2001.
- Improve educational facilities for the masses by allocating P1.5 billion to hire more teachers. Result: P1.98 billion allocated by Congress for 2002 for the hiring of 20,000 new teachers.

On the macro-economic front, Tiglao said the government managed to contain the budget deficit, tame inflation and reduce unemployment.

Financial managers contained the budget deficit to P147 billion last year and inflation to 3.9 percent in December, the lowest in one-and-a-half years, he said.

"Despite the global economic downturn, our economy grew 3.7 percent in the first three quarters of the year, when many of our neighbors' economies contracted," Tiglao said.

The presidential spokesperson enlisted the help of everyone so that the administration could do its job. "Help us serve our people."



REUTERS

FILIPINA domestic helpers chant "No to wage cut" as they join thousands of others during a protest march in Hong Kong.

RP domestic helpers lead HK . . .

(From page A1)

Goody Cadaoas, a spokesperson for the Asian Migrants Coordinating Body, said the government should refrain from cutting the wages of the territory's lowest earners and instead impose a temporary wage freeze.

"They should freeze the wages, not cut them, as the domestic helpers already earn the lowest wages. They want to cut wages by a small amount, but this amount will not affect the employers but it will hurt the employees," she said.

"I mean a few hundred dollars is just a tip to the employers, many of whom are expatriates—just enough for one meal in a restaurant (for them)."

Live-in maids

About 152,000 Filipinos and 66,000 Indonesians—and smaller numbers of Nepalese, Sri Lankans and Thais—work as live-in maids in wealthy Hong Kong and support poor families back home with one-third to as much as half of their monthly salary.

For a minimum salary of HK$3,670 ($471), the maids generally work 18 hours a day, six days a week and live in closet-sized rooms.

FILIPINA protester shouts slogans during protest march. REUTERS

But amid a backdrop of rising unemployment, falling or frozen wages across many industrial sectors and an economy battling to stave off its second recession in four years, the government has been considering a proposal to cut minimum monthly salary levels for domestic workers by up to 20 percent, to between HK$3,120 and HK$2,876.

The minimum wage for foreign domestic helpers was cut by 5 percent in 1999 as a result of the Asian economic crisis and has been frozen ever since.

Despite the legal minimum, many Indonesian domestic helpers get as little as HK$1,800 a month, while some Sri Lankans get even less—about HK$1,500 per month.

Sunday's protest also drew support from some employers. .

"They are very good. We can't do without them," said Karen Scott, a housewife from Aberdeen, Scotland, who pays her Filipino maid HK$6,000 per month.

A group of visiting Philippine legislators urged Hong Kong authorities on Friday to delay announcing its decision. Reports say the government will decide on the issue on Feb. 1.

Senior diplomats from the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Nepal have all urged Hong Kong not to implement the minimum wage cut.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has also appealed to the Hong Kong government to impose less drastic pay cuts. ***With reports from AP, AFP***

Chilling . . .

(From page A1)

state's intelligence-gathering capacity, a developed economy and strong legal system.

"I think a big reason for the concern (about the arrests) is that even in Singapore this kind of problem has existed and has the potential for real violence," he told reporters on the sidelines of a regional forum here last week.

The presence of militants here showed that terrorism was a concern not just for the United States, where 3,000 people were killed in airborne terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, Evans said.

"It's scary," a jewelry shop owner told Agence France Presse. "Singaporeans cannot afford to live in their small shells anymore and not care about what happens outside."

In the surveillance videotape, which the government said was recovered in Afghanistan last month and turned over to Singapore, a man described how they planned to blow up a shuttle bus ferrying US military personnel from a naval base to a train station.

"This is the bicycle bay as viewed from the footpath that leads to the (train) station," he said, as the camera zoomed in. "You will notice some of the boxes that are placed on the motorcycles, these are the same type of boxes we intend to use."

At one point, the narrator said, "This is the pickup point where those (American) personnel will queue up to board the bus or alight from the bus."

Apparently describing how the explosives would be placed, the man said: "That is a temple with about 1.5-meter-high wall, that is the entrance of the temple where many vehicles parked . . . so it will not be suspicious to have a motorcycle or a bicycle there."

Showed interest

The government said the plot to attack the shuttle bus was presented to al-Qaida leaders in Afghanistan who "showed interest" in it, but it was unclear why it was never carried out.

Another plan was to bomb US warships anchoring at a Singapore naval base. A map that included a "kill zone" was recovered from the suspects.

The US, Israeli, Australian and British embassies were under surveillance and marked as potential targets, along with American companies.

An attempt to procure 17 tons of ammonium nitrate to make "truck bombs" was foiled, the government said.

Of the 13 who are being detained under the Internal Security Act, eight received training from the al-Qaida in Afghanistan on the handling assault rifles and mortars, and military tactics.

Two of them were nominated for specialized training in ambush or assassination, sniper skills and bomb construction.

Analysts said that with the dismantling of al-Qaida networks in the United States, Middle East and Europe, the group could shift its operations base into Southeast Asia, which has a significant Muslim population.

Neighboring Malaysia has also launched a crackdown on Islamic militants, and US troops are training Philippine troops fighting the notorious Abu Sayyaf kidnap group.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday that local Muslim militants were allied with terrorists in Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia.

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said the penetration by terrorist groups in the region was a "grave development." *AFP*

Strange creatures alarm Aetas

(From page A1)

river, the first creature that came into sight was about 7 feet long and 3 feet wide.

Dark black in hue, it was visible enough from that distance. Slowly, it glided and took cover again in the bushes.

Serrano and barangay *tanod* Alfredo Baños said four other similar creatures, one of which was "*parang jeep kalaki* (as big as a jeepney)," never emerged in full form.

"We don't know if they are fishes or snakes or eels because they never show their heads or tails," Serrano said in Kapampangan.

The creatures, according to him, were first spotted last Nov. 5. An Aeta boy mistook these for floating logs, Serrano recalled.

The elongated outlines of the creatures were slightly bared every time the wind blew and caused ripples in the river. These have not produced any sound at daytime or at night.

Deprived of fishing ground

Exactly what these creatures are has baffled the 15 Aeta families who live in Labuan, according to Baños.

What they do know is that danger possibly lurks in the river.

Children have been ordered to stop bathing there. The men and women have stopped catching fish.

"The children are afraid. When they come here (at the hill) to view those creatures, they wonder what those things really are. We don't have answers to their questions," said Baños.

Serrano is worried about the stopping of fishing activities in the village, some 30 km from San Marcelino town proper.

"Frogs are our only source of protein," he added.

These, according to the two tribal leaders, are the reasons they want "*biasang tau* (scientists)" to come and help them end the mystery surrounding what may yet be "Pinatubo monsters."

Mercury?

The Tikis River drains directly from the watershed of Mt. Pinatubo, 18 km west of Buhawen. Its tributaries feed the Mapanuepe Lake that formed after the 1991 eruptions and which submerged the fully developed community built by the Benguet-Dizon Mines for its workers in the 1950s.

From Tikis, the water drains into the Sto. Tomas River and heads toward the South China Sea.

Tikis, bounded on the east by Mt. Bayarong, used to be a long, wide river until its eastern tail was blocked by mine tailings from two copper and gold mining pits, according to Buhawen councilman Edgar Dueñas.

Planned as a garbage landfill last year, the company built an earth dam between Bayarong and Labuan, enclosing the mine tailings and Tikis.

The river is inside the mining concession area and can only be reached by passing through two gates of the company. From the market, it can be reached after two hours of rough travel on top of an anti-lahar dike and on a winding road leading to Pili.

From there, Labuan is a brief walk through mine tailings and the river's small canals.

While reports of mercury spills persisted in Buhawen during the 1980s, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had reported no incidents that occurred in disaster proportions.

Jaime Tongol, manager of the Benguet-Dizon Mines that shut down in 1993, said the company had propagated *tilapia* at the tailings dam sometime in 1990 to prove that no harm had been done on the ecosystem, especially on the rivers within the mining area.

Tongol said the damming of the water at Mapanuepe and the rise of water there and at the tailings dam might have caused the water to backflow to the Tikis and enabled the *tilapia* to reach and thrive at the river.

TONETTE OREJAS/PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

AN AETA resident views the river from where strange creatures have been sighted since Nov. 5 in Barangay Buhawen in San Marcelino, Zambales.

Although unable to witness firsthand the creatures at Tikis, he surmised that these are "huge *tilapia*."

Serrano, Baños, Dueñas and two staff members of Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II who joined the INQUIRER during last Saturday's observation of Tikis all agreed that the five big, black creatures do not in any way resemble the *tilapia*.

"We never got close to the river for fear of *karasain* (cobra) that are known to thrive in the area. But even viewed from the hill, I'm sure those are not *tilapia*," Serrano said.

Resident Dick Rodriguez, who goes deep diving in Mapanuepe and fishing by nets in smaller arteries of the Tikis, also believed that those were not *tilapia*.

"I also observed from the hill and I never saw such creatures in my life," he said.

Dueñas and the Aetas advised the INQUIRER and Lacbain's staff members not to go near the river.

"Please, ask a marine biologist to come to the village first and study what these creatures are. We don't want you to be harmed," Dueñas pleaded.

The Earth Island Institute has promised to contact scientists for the Aeta village.

Dueñas speculated that the creatures could have thrived and grown from mercury or other natural minerals present in the tailings. "But that has to be proven," he said.

The creatures have also started attracting travelers. Two men, said to be Americans, came to Labuan last December to watch the creatures that dwelled there.

President fails to impress urban middle class

(From page A1)

President was theoretically talking to a class to which she belongs.

They share the same values. She is within the same age bracket.

They speak the same language laced with the technocratic vocabulary of modernizing paradigms, the IT revolution, competitive and efficient economics, and the need for replacing Filipino values with impersonal norms as a condition for economic and political development.

She should be at home with them, and they with her, but what surprised me was that the under-50s found her too defensive, remote and unable to communicate within the same wavelength.

Among all the social groups in this country, the under-50s should be her natural constituency, and yet she has not established a dialogue with them.

Some of the reactions after her speech, when she had left, were that she was talking above their heads, that she was too defensive, that she was claiming too much in achievements not consistent with the actual facts, that she had no charisma, and that she was not an inspiring leader but merely a manager.

Although most of them concede that she is a much more organized leader, who has a clearer vision of her priorities and who is more intelligent and economically literate than her predecessor, she is not pulling the nation ahead as much as this elite has expected, given her ample intellectual endowments.

Disenchantment

Perhaps, this disenchantment is reflected by recent public opinion polls showing a drop in her public approval rating, especially in Metro Manila—the citadel of the middle class professional and managerial elite.

Maybe, the elite expects too much from her to produce economic and political miracles within a year of her presidency. One participant observed that the two People Power Revolutions had produced too many miracles, and these upheavals had drained our reserves of producing miracles.

Be that as it may, I am left with the impression that the elite is not at all sure whether it wants a charismatic or a statistics-based leader who can lift the country out of its economic and political malaise.

The President is far from being a charismatic leader, but she knows her economics and is politically pragmatic, a stark contrast to deposed President Joseph Estrada. Estrada was all charisma and nothing else, and look where he sent the nation.

The choice today for all of us, especially the elite, is whether we can live with a statistics-driven leadership or with charisma. We can't have both.

These two qualities hardly merge and there are rare occasions in history when nations in grave crisis have produced charismatic, inspirational and competent managerial leadership of the likes of Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt or Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

A closer examination of the one-year performance of Ms Macapagal will probably show that six months after her first State of the Nation Address in which she outlined concrete goals and targets, the results are below targets.

The dilemma of the under-50s successor generation is whether to support a technocratic leadership in its own mold or join the burgeoning legion of malcontents who have intensified their campaign to topple by a coup d'etat hoping that a new people power would bring the millennium they aspire for.

While democracy is about the popular will, it also needs space,within which its institutions can work "undisturbed"(borrowing Jaime Cardinal Sin's words). Democracy is less about roller-coaster change or populism in constant motion in the streets and more about predictability, stability and institution building.

Nothing new

I am above 50, but from what I heard in the forum, there was nothing new that I had not heard before.

In the year 2002, the successor generation, beneficiaries of good education, information technology, relative modernization and even globalization, is still talking about the flawed Filipino culture and the downsides of the Filipino ways of doing things.

The elite representatives of the successor generation decry the propensity of Filipinos to talk big but falter in the implementation of ambitious projects, the tendency to blame others for national failings, economically or politically, the failure to break rules and take shortcuts, and the tendency to debate just for the sake of opposing, using democracy as the catchword for this lack of what Bill Luz of the Makati Business Club calls a "sense of community."

In the 1980s, the American journalist James Fallows wrote about the Filipino "damaged culture," blaming it for the erratic political and economic record of the Philippines, its falling behind other Asian countries in development, and the boom-and-bust cycle of its economic performance.

This article sparked a cyclone of nationalistic reaction that refused to examine the Filipinos' responsibility for their own mess.

'Unspeakable'

Up until today, the academic Alex Magno pointed out that Filipinos have refused to face the "unspeakable" and the taboo words, and continue to blame others for our woes.

In the past, we blamed conveniently Western imperialism and colonialism, but the disappearance of colonialism forced Filipinos to look for new scapegoats—this time, the demons are globalization and the VFA (Visiting Forces Agreement).

And there is no serious effort to examine ourselves where we went wrong, why we are one of the worst economic performers in Asia, why our democracy is faltering and turbulent, why we are not competitive, and why it is easier to engage in bashing than to build a national consensus.

These questions were the refrain at the forum, and because of this I sensed that even if I am above 50, I was stuck in a warp with this successor generation of the 21st century. From the comments in the forum, the delegates were nagged by the above questions and they did not find new answers.

One delegate metaphorically compared Filipino society to a symphony orchestra, with a conductor providing the musical architecture but with the musicians playing their own interpretation of the same score.

As to the President, she has really no social political base, least of all the poorer classes, and yet she has not captured the urban elite's imagination and support.

They have no dialogue and yet, if there's a class that can serve as her intellectual dynamo, it's the urban middle class. This failure to establish her social constituency spells trouble for her in 2004.

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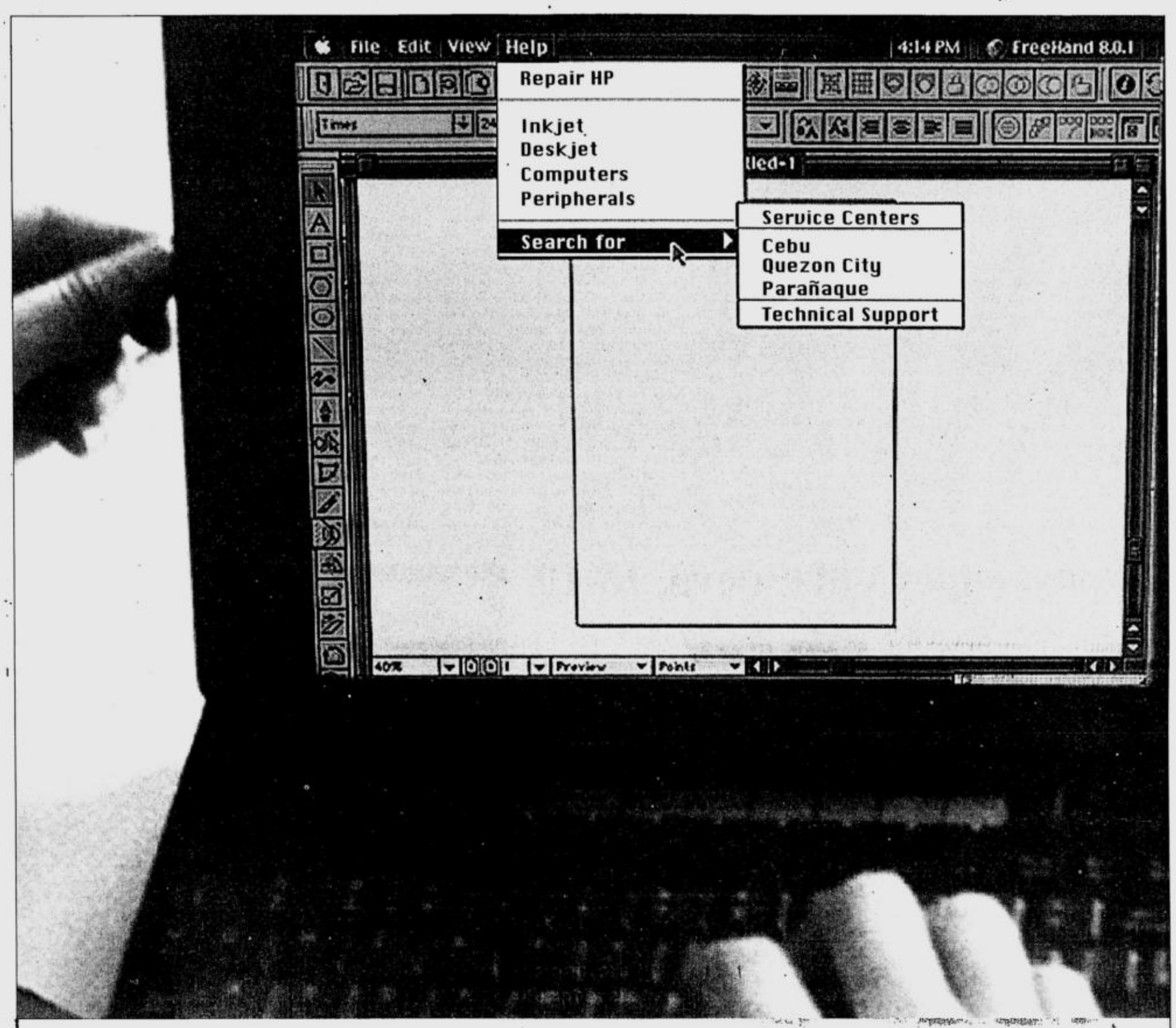

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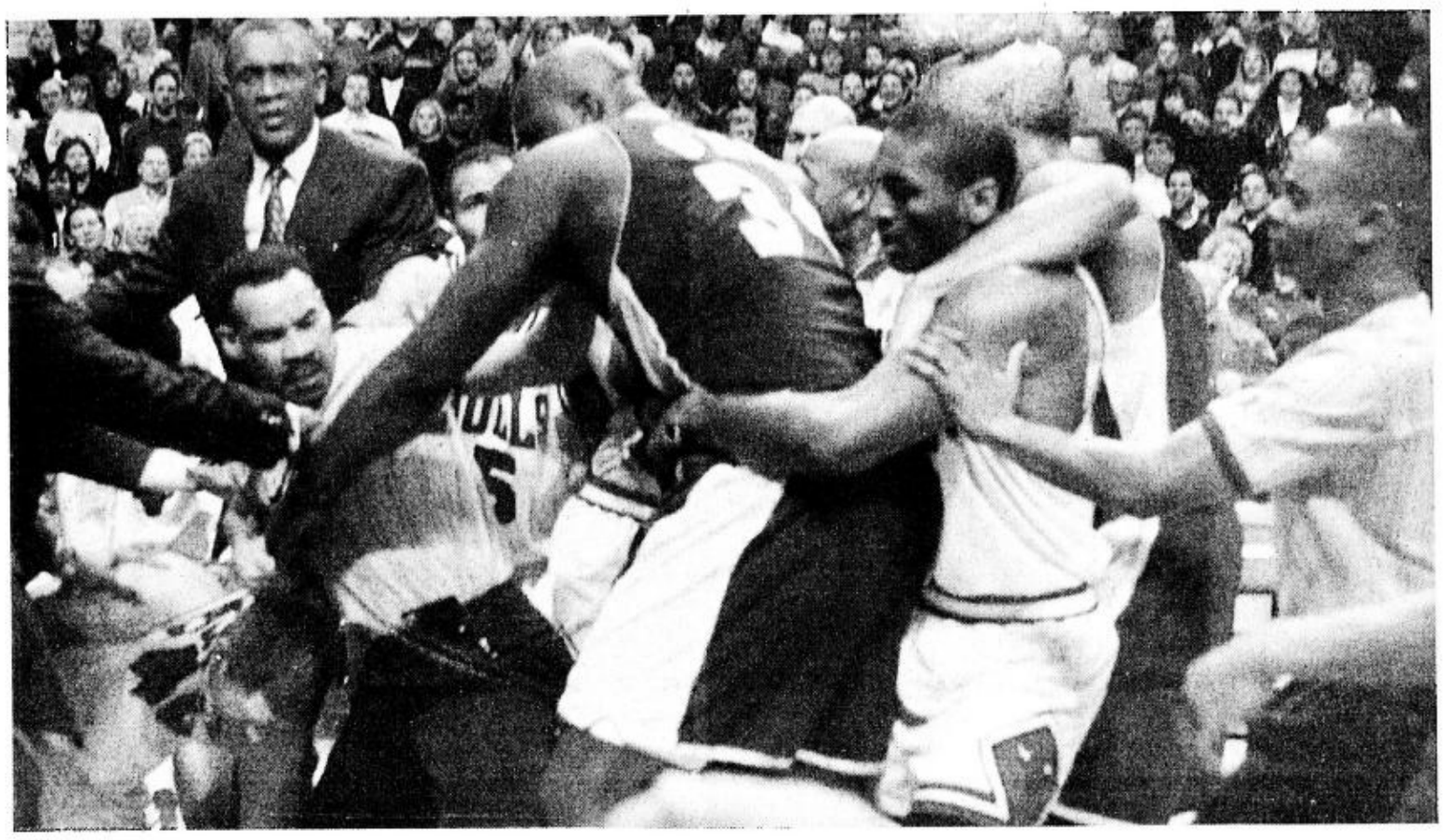

O'NEAL (34) grabs Miller as he is held back by Bulls' Ron Artest in the fourth quarter. Referees Dan Crawford (left) and Derrick Stafford also try to restrain O'Neal as Chicago head coach Bill Cartwright looks on. The Bulls won, 106-104. O' Neal faces an automatic one-game suspension for throwing a punch, and the penalty will likely be longer given the amount of anger he vented and the size of the ensuing melee. AP

Bulls stun LA Lakers

Shaq ejected for fighting

CHICAGO—In one of the most violent and stunning games of the NBA season, the Chicago Bulls shocked the Los Angeles Lakers, 106-104, in overtime Saturday night after Shaquille O'Neal was ejected for fighting.

O'Neal flew into an uncontrollable rage when he was fouled hard late in the fourth quarter, throwing two roundhouse punches at Bulls center Brad Miller - one of which connected as Miller had his back turned.

O'Neal faces an automatic one-game suspension for throwing a punch, and the penalty will likely be longer given the amount of anger he vented and the size of the ensuing melee.

The Bulls, with the NBA's worst record (7-29), dealt the Lakers their most inexcusable - and costliest - loss.

Ron Mercer led Chicago with 28 points. Derek Fisher made seven 3-pointers and scored a career-high 28 for Los Angeles, while Kobe Bryant added 26.

Wolves 108, Wizards 100

In Washington, Kevin Garnett had 31 points, seven assists and six rebounds Saturday night as the Timberwolves followed up their 18-point victory over the Lakers with a 108-100 win over the Washington Wizards.

Chauncey Billups scored 19 of his season-high 29 points in the first quarter, giving the Timberwolves an early lead they never relinquished. Billups also ended the Wizards' last hope of a comeback with the game's final points, a 3-pointer with 42.6 seconds remaining.

Michael Jordan scored 35 points and was a thrill to watch in the first half as he made his first flashy dunk of the season and toyed with Garnett on three straight possessions. But Jordan scored only nine points and went just 4-of-13 from the field in the second half, finishing the night 14-for-30 with five turnovers in 40 minutes.

Celtics 115, Hawks 91

In Atlanta, Paul Pierce scored 31 points and Antoine Walker added 23 for Boston.

The Celtics, who improved to 14-1 when they score 100 points, had lost two straight to Atlanta and entered the game with just two wins in their last seven on the road.

Dion Glover led the Hawks with 19 points. Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 17 points and 14 rebounds.

Pistons 104, Hornets 76

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Jerry Stackhouse scored 27 points, and Cliff Robinson added 21 to help the Pistons end a three-game slide.

The 28-point victory matched Detroit's biggest of the year and was just the Pistons' third win in 15 games. It ended the Hornets' season-high three-game winning streak.

Reserve Corliss Williamson added 17 points for the Pistons, while Ben Wallace had 16 rebounds.

David Wesley scored a team-high 14 points for the Hornets.

Complete results: Boston 115, Atlanta 91; Minnesota 108, Washington 100; New Jersey 91, Orlando 85; Milwaukee 102, New York 97; Detroit 104, Charlotte 76; Houston 98, Denver 86; Chicago 106, L.A. Lakers 104, OT; Dallas 111, Indiana 102; Memphis 97, Utah 95, 2OT; Phoenix 108, Miami 74. *AP*

Kings vs Suns

SOLAR Entertainment will telecast today's (Monday, Jan. 14) exciting NBA game pitting the red-hot Sacramento Kings against the struggling Phoenix Suns live at 10 a.m., with a replay at 8 p.m., on the Solar cable channel (Skycable-24 and Homecable-17).

Marriage breakup

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

MANY thought it was a marriage made in heaven for his Airness, Michael Jordan, and wife Juanita.

That was until news of their impending breakup hogged the sports pages last Jan. 7. Four days, before, Juanita filed a petition in circuit court in Waukegan, Illinois seeking a dissolution of her 12-year marriage to Jordan due to "irreconcilable differences."

Juanita is seeking permanent custody of the couple's three children (Jeffrey, 13, Marques, 11, and Jasmine, 9), the 25,000-square-foot "marital residence" in suburban Highland Park, an "equitable" share of their marital property, and a "fair and reasonable sum" for temporary and permanent maintenance.

Michael would be granted visitation rights with his children.

According to Fortune Magazine, Michael has an estimated wealth of $398 million. In his final two seasons with the Chicago Bulls in 1997 and 1998, he bankrolled more than $30 million and $33 million, respectively.

Contrary to popular belief, Jordan's current NBA comeback with the improving Washington Wizards was not the major factor in Juanita's divorce suit. The couple actually has been estranged the last few years. His return to the NBA, which is keeping him in the Washington DC area most of the time this season, was the final straw that broke the proverbial camel's back.

Ironically, Jordan cited a desire to spend more time with his family when he retired from the Bulls the first ime in October 1993 and again in January 1999. In January 2000, when he bought a minority interest in the Wizards and became the club's president of basketball operations, the five-time NBA MVP maintained his Chicago-area residence.

Family woes such as those experienced by Jordan are not unusual. What surprised many was that it had to happen to a nice guy with a down-to-earth personality and huge smile like Jordan.

The lifestyle of a pro athlete, be it from the NBA, NFL, NHL, major-league baseball or individual sports, is much different from that of an ordinary hard-hat worker.

Life in the fast lane entails a lot of traveling. The extensive road trips often encourage extra curricular activities because of the excessive attention athletes receive from team supporters, thrill-seekers and women of ill-repute.

Temptation (to do evil) is great. Many fall prey to drug or alcohol abuse or illicit sexual relations. Only those made of sterner stuff survive unscratched.

SPORTSWATCH

Australian Open fires off today

MELBOURNE—Men's second seed Gustavo Kuerten opens play at the Australian Open on Monday, looking to end a nightmare run at the first grand slam of the season. The Brazilian has never fired on all cylinders in Melbourne, failing to advance beyond the second round in five attempts. He faces a tricky task on Monday, first up against Frenchman Julien Boutter to open play on the Rod Laver Arena. Kuerten, winner of three French Open crowns, is followed onto the main showcourt by Venus Williams. Seeded second at the Open, Williams is determined to win her maiden Australian crown. The defending Wimbledon and US Open champion plays American qualifier Ansley Cargill in possibly the biggest mismatch of the draw. Defending men's Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic completes the day session on Rod Laver Arena. He will be testing his shoulder out with some big serves against Martin Damm of the Czech Republic. Martina Hingis faces France's Virginie Razzano as she bids to end her grand slam drought which extends back to January 1999 when she won here for her third Australian crown. *AP*

Eagles wallop Buccaneers, 31-9

PHILADELPHIA—The Philadelphia Eagles beat Tampa Bay 31-9 Saturday and are headed for Chicago and the second round of the NFL playoffs, and Bill Parcells might be headed for Tampa Bay to replace Tony Dungy as the Buccaneers' coach. Donovan McNabb threw for two touchdowns and 194 yards and ran for 57 more as the Eagles beat Tampa Bay in the first round of the playoffs for the second straight season. The Eagles' win was overshadowed by speculation that this would be Dungy's last game after six seasons as the only winning coach in Bucs' history. He could be replaced by Parcells, who led the New York Giants to two Super Bowl victories, took New England to the Super Bowl and the New York Jets to the AFC title game. The loss was typical of Tampa Bay's offensive failures—the Bucs have had three starting quarterbacks and three offensive coordinators in the last three seasons and just don't score enough touchdowns—this was the third straight playoff game they didn't score a TD. *AP*

Freitas snatches WBA crown

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Brazil's Acelino Freitas won a unanimous 12-round decision over Cuba's Joel Casamayor here Saturday to win a battle of unbeatens and capture the World Boxing Association super-featherweight title. Freitas rose to 31-0 by taking the crown from Casamayor, who fell to 26-1 after all three judges scored the fight 114-112. "I knew that I was going to win it in points," Freitas said. "I worked very hard. I concentrated very much. I decided to fight him very hard so I could win this." Casamayor suffered the first knockdown of his career in the third round, a controversial fall that came off a weak right hand from Freitas that was timed well, making contact with off-balance Casamayor as he moved back and fell into the ropes. That led to several questionable blows from the Cuban, the most costly when he had a point deducted in the sixth round for punching on a break, slamming his right hand into Freitas' left ear. *AFP*

Clark tames wind, leads field

DURBAN, South Africa—South African Tim Clark produced a fighting six-birdie 68 at windswept Durban Country Club to take a third round lead of 12-under-par 204 in the South African Open on Saturday. US Open champion Retief Goosen of South Africa, who was round in 69, and England's Jonathan Lomas who carded a 71, were joint second on 206. The wind, which often batters this course, switched direction from a prevailing north-easter to a blustery south-wester which made the back nine and particularly the last five holes extremely testing. Not surprisingly, it was on the inward loop that most shots were dropped and overnight leader James Kingston was one of the worst casualties. From the 11th, he bogeyed five holes in seven to limp home in 40 for a round of 74. *AFP*

Kiamco edges Villanueva, 13-10

VETERAN Warren Kiamco edged Romeo Villanueva, 13-10, and barged into the final of the first Barcelona Battle for the Gold 9-Ball Challenge Tournament Saturday night at Robinson's Place in Ermita.

Kiamco, who finished a strong third in the 2001 Tokyo 9-Ball International Tournament, trailed 1-7 as Villanueva went off to a fiery start.

But Kiamco cut Villanueva's advantage with a methodical play to level the count at 10. A foul ball called by international arbiter Jojie Acuna on Villanueva proved to be the turning point for Kiamco's amazing comeback.

Kiamco faces the winner of the Antonio Lining-Lee, Van Corteza tussle this coming Saturday at Robinson's Galleria in Ortigas.

Winner of the event gets P150,000, with the runner-up bagging P50,000. The third and fourth placers take P25,000 each.

The Lining-Cortez match will be shown live on Saturday at NBN-4.

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4 bets emerge champs

FOUR tough entries—Agilahas of Ashley Arayata and derby host Vic Yu, BL Intruder of Saipan cocker Jun Marasigan, New Guagua Coliseum of Boy de Roca and Dynasty of Henry Tan—emerged as co-champions with seven in the Third Mandaluyong International 9-Cock Derby last Saturday night at Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Sabong idol Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Hammer), Raymond Velayo and Cong. Ompong Plaza (Dream Team Arnis Master) and engineer Sonny Lagon (Blue Blade JBB) were runner-up finishers with 6.5 points each, while Ucap president Butch Macasaet (BJ Greenwood) and R. Velayo/ Butch Halili (Arnis Master) have 6 points apiece to finish in the money.

Meanwhile, submission of weights to the Second Ucap/PE San Pablo Blue Blade 7-Cock Derby is set for today, Monday, Jan. 14, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The event, to be hosted by engineer Sonny Lagon and Pol Estrellado is set tomorrow and on Thursday (Jan. 15 and 17).

Also slated at Mandaluyong Coliseum is the "Pit Master 6-Cock Derby" on Jan. 22 and 24 to be hosted by Rey Lee.

For other inquiries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

NCA tilt

IT'S all systems go for the star-studded NCA (National Cockers Association) 7-Cock Derby starting today at the world-class Araneta Coliseum.

A JUBILANT Parry hoists his trophy. AP

Parry gets late birthday gift

PARAPARAUMU BEACH, New Zealand—Craig Parry couldn't believe his luck at the New Zealand Open on Sunday while Tiger Woods had trouble believing the greens.

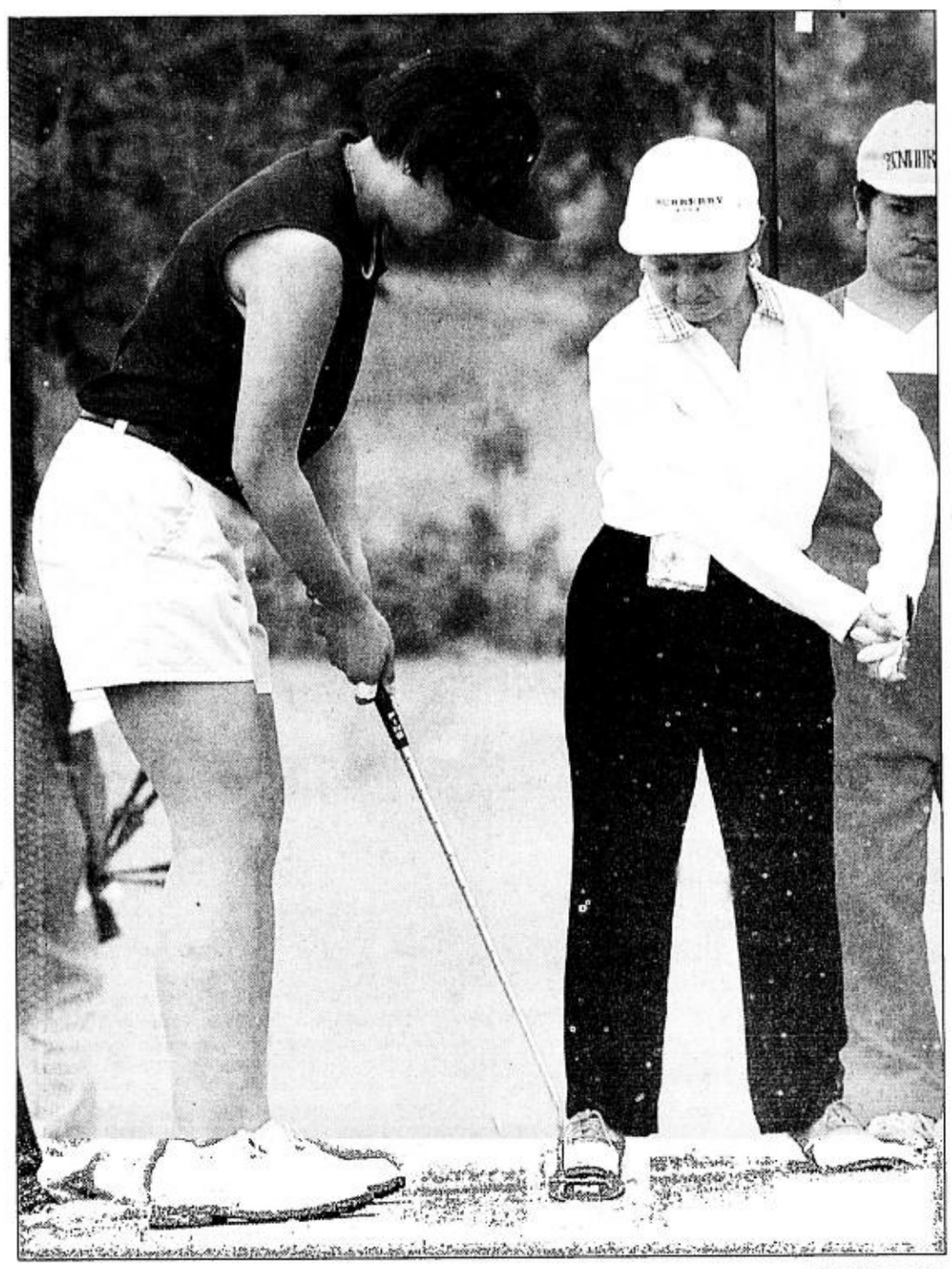
Parry went to the 18th hole on Sunday one shot behind New Zealander Michael Campbell. When Parry, who celebrated his 36th birthday Saturday, walked off, he had a two-shot lead after Parry birdied while Campbell made a double-bogey at 17.

While Parry was grinning, Woods, making his first appearance in New Zealand, saw a late push to get among the leaders thwarted by greens that wouldn't give him a break, including a four-putt second hole for double-bogey.

Woods had a 69 Sunday to finish in a tie for sixth, six strokes behind Parry.

Meanwhile, Woods could be forced to review his standard $2-million tournament appearance fee after organizers of the New Zealand Open were left facing hefty losses on the cost of bringing him down under. *AFP*

TENNIS VICE PRESIDENTS
PSC Commissioner Cynthia Carreon (seated, third from left) is shown with the newly inducted Philta regional vice presidents namely (seated, from left) Deena Cruz for mother Fem of Region 2, Children's Tennis Workshop head Jovy Mamawal, Fraz Mamawal (R2), Miguel Bichara for Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara (R 5-A), (standing, from left) Ferdie Medina (R1), vice mayor Dr. Rex Jalandoon (R6B), John Pages (R7), James Ramirez (R9); Jimbo Chavez of R10; Jonathan Sanglay (R13) and Duma Boloto (R12). Not in photo during the induction at Tagaytay Highlands were Efren Enverga (R5B), Eliseo Yu (R8) and lawyer David Alarcon (R4).



ROMY HOMILLADA

PUTTING TIPS
President Arroyo gets putting tips from Dorothy Delasin, PSA co-athlete of the year, during a round of golf at Wack Wack yesterday.

POC should give all SEAG bidders equal chances–Go

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

GO Teng Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, yesterday said all six bidders for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games hosting should be given equal chances to stage the event even as he lamented the Philippine Olympic Committee's preference to Manila.

Reacting to the statement given by POC president Celso Dayrit, Go questioned the guideline which favors Manila as the center of activities for the biennial event, considering that it successfully hosted the SEAG in 1981 and 1991.

"That guideline only gives unfair advantage to Manila and dampens the enthusiasms of other aspiring host to pursue their campaign," said Go, who vowed to raise the issue when the POC general assembly convenes on Jan. 30.

"What more can the other bidders expect when he has already declared that Manila will be the main hub of the SEA Games," he added. "We should have given the hosting to Manila outright to save us time and effort."

Dayrit's statements also drew attention from representatives of at least two bidders, namely Pampanga and Bacolod-Iloilo, who cried foul over what they termed as "arbitrary declaration" of Manila as having been the Games' nerve center.

Other areas interested to host the SEAG were Cebu, Naga City and Cotabato.

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NCR cage elims push through today

THE NATIONAL Capital Region eliminations for the National Students Basketball Championships will push through as originally scheduled today.

This developed after Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim overturned the decision of the eligibility and technical commission to move the opening to Jan. 24 because some schools failed to complete the requirements on time.

Lim said it's necessary to hold the eliminations as scheduled because a postponement would disrupt the schedule of National Students, also known as the National Inter-Collegiate and Inter-Secondary Basketball Championships, which is set Feb. 24-March 2 in Ormoc City and the municipality of Isabel in Leyte.

Opening games of the NCR eliminations at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum pit Las Piñas College against St. Dominic at 3 p.m., AMA versus St. Jude at 4:30 p.m. and UPHR against PSBA at 6 p.m.

Lim also enjoined the BAP regional directors, Lito Alvarez (NCR), Johnny Tam (Region IV), Luis Samson Jr. (I), Marius de Guzman (II), Rafael Angeles (III), Julian Lavadia (V), Emmanuel Yap (VI), lawyer Edgar Avila (CAR), Douglas Mosquito Sr. (Caraga), lawyer George Bragal (VII), Dr. Lucrecio Calo (VIII), Jose Bernad Jr. (IX), Rico Medina Jr. (X), Regino Cua (XI) and Dr. Miguel Domingo Jacalan III (XII) to finish their respective eliminations before Feb. 10.

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UST netters stay unbeaten

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas downed La Salle, 2-1, yesterday to remain unbeaten in five games in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) women's tennis tournament at the Valle Verde Country Club outdoor courts.

Charise Godoy won the first singles match over Tina Gomez, 6-1, 6-0, while Julie Ann Cadiente and Katrina Lopez defeated Janet Jill Uy and Liza Buenbrazo in the doubles, 6-3, 6-3.

La Salle, in the second place with a 2-3 record, won the second singles courtesy of Sommer Bisagas over Maxinne Banson 6-1, 6-1.

In the other game, University of the Philippines downed Ateneo, 3-0, with victories coming from Anna Andrea songco over Corinne Haze Taneod, 6-2, 6-1 in the first singles, Stephanie Lopez and Kim Espiritu over Catherine Fong and Germinese Co, 7-6 (4), 6-3 in the doubles, and Jay-An Dizon over Margarita Flores, 6-0, 6-1 in the second singles.

The Americans are coming

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

PERHAPS more than any sport, cockfighting requires the most meticulous preparations and patience before a cocker-breeder achieves respect and recognition. The best example is American Roger Roberts, a 63-year-old electrical engineer from Atlanta, Georgia, who emerged the surprise champion of last year's annual World Slasher 8-Cock Derby at the landmark Araneta Coliseum.

Together with longtime partner Johnny Philips and Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, Roberts' Hatchets-Thunderbird Firefly IV gamecocks pulled a major upset by scoring seven sizzling wins, finishing joint champions with Super Ninja Bulljack of Filipino Tony Trebol and Riochi Saito of Japan in the first leg held last January 2001 of the two-leg World Slasher Derby. In the second leg of what is now widely accepted as the "Olympics of Cockfighting," Filipino engineer Gerry Fevidal reigned supreme when his entry, MYL Geran, posted seven stirring victories and wound up the solo champion. Roberts did not participate that time. This year's World Slasher Derby is set for Jan. 21, 23 and 25, also at the Big Dome, with Nene Araneta, Ito Ynares and the Firefly Group as hosts.

"We are coming back," Roberts was quoted as saying in his well-maintained farm in Winder, about 30 kilometers north of Atlanta. "We know the odds are forbidding, but my 'Hatchets' are ready. That's for sure."

Roberts has been breeding the Hatchets (a cross between the Hatch Roundheads and the Chet Robinson Roundheads) for more than 20 years. In winning the World Slasher here, the visiting American sportsman banked on his vast experience, fighting his Hatchets against the equally fearsome entries of his rivals and bucking a hometown crowd and unfamiliar conditions. It took Roberts' mental toughness as well as confidence in the ability of his fighting cocks to fight well on the spot and prevail in spite of adverse situations.

"Everything is in readiness for the World Slasher Cup," said an official of the National Cockers Association, which is also staging the NCA 7-Cock Derby today, adding that also arriving are other American cocker-breeders such as the fabled Ray Alexander of Alabama, Tom Cooper and Jeff Hudspeth of Cedar Creek, the legendary Dan Gray, Bobby Jones, one of the most popular cockers in the Philippine derby scene; and cockfightings from Canada, Malaysia, Japan, California, Guam and Hawaii.

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

De Ocampo to FedEx

BY JUNE NAVARRO

FEDERAL Express made 6-foot-8 slotman Yancy De Ocampo the season's top pick during the PBA Annual Draft which produced a couple of surprises yesterday at the Glorietta Center.

DE OCAMPO

The choice of De Ocampo, a portrait of what a big man should be during his amateur days in the PBL, was expected as the St. Francis of Assisi College alum stood out in a pool of 48 aspirants.

FedEx president Lito Alvarez said De Ocampo would receive a maximum rookie salary of P200,000 in his rookie year while the rate escalates in the next three to five seasons.

Alvarez said they would sign up the former Welcoat hotshot for at least three years.

"The PBA definitely presents a new and tough challenge. I will have to make a lot of adjustments if I want to make it big in the PBA someday," said De Ocampo, the youngest in the draft at 21.

As expected, newcomer Coca-Cola snatched the flashy Rafi Reavis as the draft's No. 2 pick overall.

A Fil-American who suited up for Coppin State University in the United States, the 6-foot-8 Reavis played for the San Juan Knights in the MBA.

Sta. Lucia Realty, by virtue of its No. 3 pick in the first round, opted for Omanzie Rodriguez, a 6-foot-6 master shot-blocker and Reavis' teammate at San Juan.

Shell, which acquired the fourth overall choice from Purefoods via an exchange involving swingman Noy Castillo, preferred a shooter over a bigman as the Turbo Chargers snatched the sweet-shooting Cris Calaguio. Calaguio also played for the Knights.

Batang Red Bull opted for Homer Se in the first round while Alaska sent a lot of eyebrows arching after the Aces picked Miguel Noble as their top alternative.

Another surprise preference was Frederick Canlas, whom Shell invested its seventh pick.

Although Canlas stood out as the tallest among the aspirants at 6-foot-9, the former Welcoat stringer still has to infuse years of experience on his lanky frame.

Ren-ren Ritualo, whom everybody thought would land anywhere in the top five, went to newcomer Federal Express as No. 8 while Chester Tolomia, Shark's top gunner in the PBL, went to Barangay Ginebra as No. 9.

Coke selected Leo Avenido at the end of the first round of the draft, which unusually ended in the eighth round.

FedEx, which passed on the eighth round, opted to close the door on eight hopefuls who failed to land anywhere in the 10 teams.

Gilbert Lao (Coke), Christian Nicdao (Talk N Text), Chito Victolero (Sta. Lucia), Rainier Sison (Shell), Edwin Bacani (Shell), Jojo Manalo (Coke), Gilbert Malabanan (Ginebra) and Alvin Castro (San Miguel) rounded up the second round of the exercise.

Also drafted were Celino Cruz, Junel Mendiola, Brandon Sison, Dexter Racho, Willy Mejia, Rensy Bajar, Jason Misolas, Aristeo Dimaunahan, John Victorio, Danny Capobres, Richard Dela Peña, William Moody, Arnel Mañalac, Richard Melencio, Francis Sanz, Jerome Barbosa, Eugene Tan, Ken Gumpenburger, Edrick Ferrer, Francis Aquino and Jacques Gottenbos.

Uichico replaces Jacobs

SAN Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico officially became Ron Jacobs' replacement as head coach of the PBA-spiked national team for this year's Asian Games in September.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino made the announcement yesterday after he personally asked team officials to submit a list of names whom they feel available and qualified for the job.

"I would like to emphasize that the choice of Mr. Uichico is strictly the choice and undertaking of the PBA," said Bernardino, who brushed aside rumors that San Miguel Corp. is the chief benefactor of the Asian Games stint.

He added all teams participated in sharing their talents and bankrolling the endeavors and programs of the national team so "it would be unfair to the other teams if we refer to Uichico as the San Miguel coach to the RP team."

Uichico, who won five titles for the Beermen in the last three seasons, will have at least eight months to prepare the national team for the Asiad slated from Sept. 24-Oct. 14 in Busan, South Korea.

June Navarro

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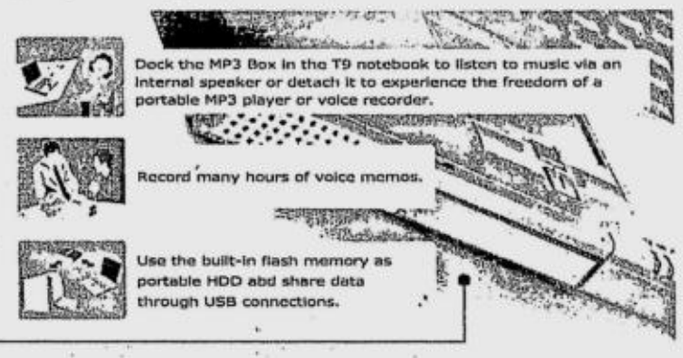

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Good Samaritan slain

JESUS Daet and Rolando Calabines meant to help their friend Jester Balanay, who was being held up in Quezon City yesterday morning. Daet ended up being killed and Calabines injured; both were also robbed. Balanay was waiting for a ride on Elliptical Road when three men robbed him at 1:45 a.m. The robbers then stabbed Daet and Calabines and fled with Daet's wallet and Calabines' watch. *Agnes E. Donato*

SJ suspends drug tests

SAN JUAN Mayor JV Ejercito has suspended Ordinance No. 20 requiring drug testing for employees of all business establishments. He said his office would study the ordinance first. "Its intention is to make San Juan drug-free but the people are complaining of the P200 cost, which businessmen and workers alike say is excessive," he said. *Nelson F. Flores*

Mayor to lead protest rally vs toll fee increase

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

PARAÑAQUE Mayor Joey Marquez yesterday said he would lead a rally in front of the Supreme Court in Manila to urge the High Court to annul the increase in the toll rates on the North and South expressways and the Coastal Road.

Groups of homeowners, led by the Movement for Responsible Enterprise (MORE), said they are also preparing to stage protest actions against the toll increase.

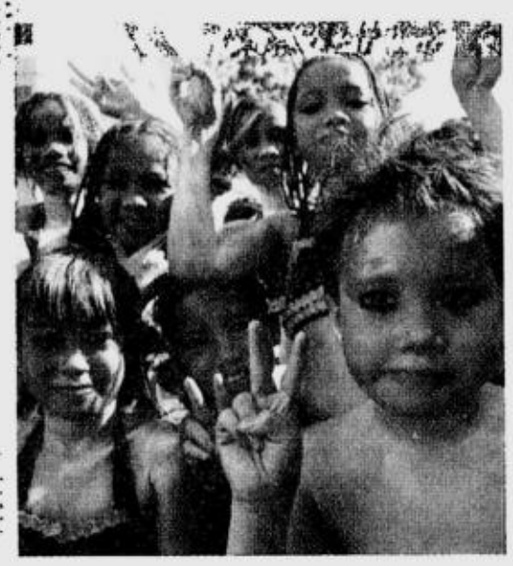
The leaders of the homeowners said they also asked President Macapagal to include the Skyway—the elevated portion of the South Luzon Expressway—and the Coastal Road in her order suspending the toll increase.

Marquez said he would lead the rally to pressure the Supreme Court to decide in favor of a petition filed by lawyer Ceferino Padua.

In a taxpayer's suit, Padua asked the Supreme Court to declare as null and void the order of the Toll Regulatory Board authorizing the increase in toll rates.

Rey Junia of MORE said his group is mobilizing homeowners associations in Parañaque, Muntinlupa, and Laguna to stage rallies in front of Malacañang and in front of the offices of the Philippine National Construction Corp., PEA Tollway Corp., and Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp.

MAYOR TO LEAD/ A24



PEACE KIDS MIKE PEREZ

Children flash the peace sign during the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of the Poor in Taguig Sunday. The painted, costumed children participated in a colorful parade through the town's streets.

FILE PHOTO

DOLPHY VANDOLPH

Telling Vandolph of friend's death is up to Dolphy

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

ACE COMEDIAN Dolphy is tasked to tell Vandolph Quizon, his son with Alma Moreno, about the death of the young actor's girlfriend, Desiree "Ishi" Raquiza.

Ishi, 17, never woke up from a coma after she and Vandolph were injured when their pickup collided with a truck in Pangasinan last Nov. 17. Six other people, including two men who were also in the pickup, were wounded.

Vandolph, 17, who suffered several fractures and was himself in a coma, is now walking, according to his stepfather, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez.

Doctors who operated on Vandolph's hip said earlier that the former child star would have to spend months in therapy to recover the full use of his limbs.

Marquez said Vandolph's biological father, Dolphy, would tell his son about Raquiza's death.

Friends and relatives said Vandolph had been madly in love with his teenage sweetheart, and they are in a quandary on how to break the tragic news to him.

"What we all want now is for Vandolph to fully recover," Marquez said.

He said Vandolph is showing substantial improvements and is on his way to recovery even if he is still in the dark about his girlfriend's fate.

TELLING VANDOLPH/ A24

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Mike Martinez relatives losing hope

BY JEROME ANING

ANOTHER division of the National Bureau of Investigation has taken over the case of the unexplained disappearance of Mike Martinez, earlier tagged in the killing of movie actress Nida Blanca, even as relatives of Martinez lose hope in finding him.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco on Saturday ordered the case transferred to the Special Task Force headed by Marianito Panganiban after an afternoon meeting with Martinez's younger brother Bobby and their mother Teresita.

The NBI's National Capital Region office was on top of the case, but since it was overloaded with many other cases, Wycoco decided to give it to the STF, the NBI chief explained.

In an interview, Bobby said he welcomed the transfer but he admitted that the family is fast losing hope that Martinez would ever be found alive. He said they are prepared to accept Martinez is already dead.

Bobby said they are also slowly becoming convinced that Martinez's disappearance could have been a part of a "bigger plot" and not just a simple cover-up.

"We are no longer after his recovery," Bobby told reporters. "We want him back, even only his remains, so that we can lay him to rest."

He said the Martinezes want to be certain once and for all about the fate of his missing brother.

A man and a woman claimed they witnessed the abduction of Martinez at his house in Parañaque City last Nov. 19.

Philip Medel, whom police earlier arrested as a suspect in the Blanca case, tagged Martinez as one of his accomplices. Medel later retracted his statement.

Human bones at school site

RESIDENTS of San Miguel, Manila yesterday morning were shocked to find a big pile of skulls and bones at the site of a medical school that had been demolished.

Members of the J.P. Laurel police community precinct led by Senior Insp. Reggie Saberon went to the compound of the demolished De Ocampo Memorial College in Nagtahan after receiving a report about the pile of bones.

The bones were found inside a big metal box, which were covered with plywood, in the compound, which is just beside the De Ocampo Hospital.

The school's medical students allegedly used the skeletons in their anatomy classes. The college has moved to the National Statistics Office building along Ramon Magsaysay Avenue in Sta. Mesa but the bones were apparently left behind, police said.

The school building was demolished in July, police added.

Police were trying to find out if charges could be filed against the school authorities for leaving the bones behind. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Mayor to lead...

(From page A23)

The PNCC operates the North and South Luzon Expressways. PEA runs the Skyway and Citra the Coastal Road.

Junia said Malacañang should respond to public demand and also suspend the toll increase on the Coastal Road and the Skyway.

He said President Macapagal suspended only the new toll rates on the PNCC-controlled expressways but not on the Coastal Road and the Skyway because she was fed the "wrong information" that residents were not against increases in toll rates in the two road systems.

The South Luzon Expressway extends from Magallanes in Makati City to Alabang in Muntinlupa City.

The North Luzon Expressway stretches from Balintawak in Quezon City to Barangay Tabang in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Telling Vandolph . . .

(From page A23)

"He's not yet asking about Ishi," Marquez told the INQUIRER yesterday. "He's doing fine, though. He's now walking."

Vandolph went home to his mother Alma Moreno's house in Parañaque after he was discharged from the Makati Medical Center last Dec. 23. He was brought back to the hospital a few days later for a fever, but he suffered no further complications. He is now staying in Dolphy's house.

Vandolph suffered several fractures after the Ford F-150 pickup he was driving collided with a truck in Pozorrubio town in Pangasinan.

Raquiza died two weeks after the accident.

Happy, but who kept the President's PSA speech?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

SHE came, she saw, she honored the dead.

Talk after the last Philippine Sportswriters Awards night was the sudden appearance of President Gloria Mapacagal-Arroyo at the Holiday Inn fiesta on Friday.

She was not scheduled to show up. But Madame President made our top sportsmen and the officers of the PSA extremely glad.

To tell you the truth, everybody had given up on her. Her office, in fact, had sent word she wouldn't be able to make it.

With her unscheduled presence, GMA, an avowed golfer, showed how much she cares for our athletes, for Philippine sports.

Well, it could have been the result of a merry mix-up. Her main role in the show was to rise at the appointed hour to hand out the silverware—it again came in flimsy glass form on Friday—to the most outstanding athletes of the year. She ended up giving out the posthumous awards first.

We don't know who gave her the wrong signal. Or did GMA herself decide to also do it for the dead before honoring billiards great Efren "Bata" Reyes and the celebrated golfer Dorothy Delasin, who came over with her big, dusky caddie who also reportedly sidelines as a boyfriend.

***

The deserving bunch of posthumous awardees that included basketball celebrities Fely Fajardo, national cager Lawrence Mumar and coach Tito Eduque couldn't have asked for more.

No matter how you look at it, the President had inflicted more significance on the memories of those late sports heroes who, in their moments of greatness, had made the Pinoy proud.

Of course, in the rush-rush, the President also left without giving a few words, a standard practice in such a major event.

If we are to believe what was later whispered around, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, originally sent to represent Madame Arroyo in the PSA bash, either lost or misplaced the copy of GMA's speech.

It was Bobi Tiglao's original task to read that prepared text.

However, those who had been brave and patient enough to stay late at the Coral Ballroom said they do not remember Tiglao reading any message.

In fact, they said, Tiglao also disappeared after the President left in a rush.

***

Petty? Insignificant?

You see, through the years, we had looked forward to a presidential statement or declaration, immediately after the PSA annual bash.

You can bet there was such a thing, a speech prepared for the PSA fiesta.

Now, if the Malacañang press office would be kind enough, we beg it to kindly disseminate the contents of that missing, misplaced, somewhat forgotten speech to the eager public.

Why? Well, nothing great really. But, you see, the official statement made by the President during the PSA awards night has, through the years, been part of the blessing on the affair, a sort of official anointment.

Fidel Ramos had always seen it fit to make a declaration during past PSA rites.

Even Erap Estrada, already deep in trouble during the Senate probe of plunder charges against him last year, sent over his son Jinggoy who later delivered the very important message in the PSA affair.

***

It definitely was not his fault that GMA ended up at centerstage ahead of schedule.

But whose face turned livid red after his name and presence was bypassed during a welcome address by a top PSA official?

Not a few people told me that Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason appeared uneasy and visibly displeased after his name was skipped in the welcome address.

Not to worry. As consolation, the PSC, in the same address, got a big pat on the back for an allegedly terrific performance in the last Southeast Asian Games.

Now, if being stuck at fifth overall, closer to the bottom, in the SEA Games medal race is commendable, then we must be honoring our athletes and officials every weekend.

Yes, your reporter here did not escape being chided for a Feel-Good award I had bestowed on the PSC in a previous column.

When I protested, I was told that what the PSC aptly deserved was something like a Make-Believe award. Because it has taken pains to make people feel Philippine sports is doing great, despite the back-to-back debacles by the RP delegation in the Sydney Olympics and the last SEA Games.

***

Well, at least we have Dorothy Delasin to honor with a well-deserved plaque.

In return, she vowed to play doubly hard for the Filipino people this year.

Bata Reyes? He, for sure, stole the show with his impromptu response.

He was, as ever, sincerely profuse with thanks for his sponsors, the fans, and the Lord.

As a "matter of pack," Bata Reyes said, he felt more terribly nervous, ill at ease, talking in public than shooting crucial pockets in major international competitions.

Bata was cool and excellence personified. He also bared what had helped him hit jackpot after jackpot as the last year headed to a close.

We'll talk about Bata's newfound winning secret later. But first, we hope they would succeed in retrieving GMA's missing message.

Reflected on a mirror, a Makati policeman helps a handcuffed suspect drink water during questioning inside the Mercury Drug branch. MIKE ALQUINTO

2 nabbed for P1M Mercury Drug rob

POLICE on Friday night arrested two suspected members of a holdup group that preyed on Mercury Drug after they robbed the chain's Makati branch of about P1 million.

Caught were former Army soldier Domingo Fernandez, of Tugatog, Malabon; and Robert Ortiz, 30, of Road 10, Vitas, Tondo, said Supt. Jose Ramon Salido, chief of the Makati City police Criminal Investigation Division.

Police were still looking for 10 other members of the gang, including alleged leader Rey Fanilar.

SPO2 Alejandro Devalid said police received an alarm that the Mercury branch at the corner of Zobel and Enriquez streets was being robbed at 7 p.m. As police came, the robbers fled on board a Toyota Hi-Ace, but Fernandez and Ortiz were left behind.

Fernandez was caught holding a bag containing about P1 million in cash, police said.

Also recovered from Fernandez was a .38 caliber pistol. Ortiz threw away his .38 pistol and police could not find it, investigators said. *Alcuin Papa*

ENTERTAINMENT

More MMFF changes

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE METRO Manila Film Festival has seen better days, but those good times can come back again if some improvements are made: First, the filmfest should stop nominating all lead and supporting actors for its awards, since that excessively "democratic" practice dilutes the nominations' value.

Instead, the board of judges should come up with three finalists for each category, since there are only six or seven official entries in each year's edition of the festival.

Second, better care should be taken in choosing the members of the selection committee and board of judges. No politicians, please, only people who are trained to spot the best films among all of the prospective entries, and then among the official entries.

A lot of the public's questions regarding choice of entries and winners can be more credibly answered if the people involved in these key selection processes are all perceived to be competent and imperious to pressure or persuasion.

Third, the judges should be required to conduct discussions before casting their votes. If there are no dissuasions, there can be no collegiality in the jurors' verdicts. If judges clarify their reasons for choosing one film over another, the logic of their choices can be better established and defended.

As it is, when controversy strikes, all that the filmfest people can say is that it's all a matter of taste. We all know, of course, that it should be much more than that, since awards have to be based on criteria, not subjective preferences.

TV awards

THE GOLDEN Globes on Jan. 20 will honor outstanding achievement not only in film, but in television as well. Competing in the drama series category are "Alias," "C.S.I.: Crime Scene Investigation," "Six Feet Under," "The Sopranos," "24" and "the West Wing."

For musical or comedy series, the finalists are "Ally McBeal," "Frasier," "Friends," "Sex and the City" and "Will & Grace."

Mini-series or television movie: "Anne Frank," "Band of Brothers," "Conspiracy," "Life with Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows," and "Wit."

Which shows or TV movies will the 2001 Golden Globes bless? In the past, shows like "The Soprano," "The West Wing," "Ally McBeal" and "Sex and the City" have romped off with trophies, but newer productions are giving them tough competition this time around.

Performance? The best drama actors are **Simon Baker** in "The Guardian," **James Gandolfini** in "The Sopranos," **Peter Krause** in "Six Feet Under," **Martin Sheen** in "The West Wing" and **Kiefer Sutherland** in "24."

Lead actors in musical or comedy series: **Tom Cauanaugh** in "Ed," **Kelsey Grammer** in "Frasier," **Eric McCormack** in "Will & Grace," **Frankie Muniz** in "Malcolm in the Middle" and **Charlie Sheen** in "Spin City."

Dramatic actresses: **Lorraine Bracco** in "The Soprano," **Amy Brenneman** in "Judging Amy," **Edie Falco** in "The Sopranos," **Jennifer Garner** in "Alias," **Lauren Graham** in "Gilmore Girls," **Marg Helgenberger** in "C.S.I.," and **Sela Ward** in "Once and Again."

Sitcom actresses: **Calista Flockhart** in "Ally McBeal," **Jane Kacmarek** in "Malcolm in the Middle," Heather Locklear in "Sex and the City," **Debra Messing** in "Will & Grace," and **Sarah Jessica Parker** in "Sex and the City."

Catch the live Golden Globes telecast on Star World on Monday, Jan. 21 at 9 a.m.. The Three-hour presentation will be held in Beverly Hills, California. There will also be a primetime telecast later in the day at 9 p.m. and again at 11:30 p.m.

Other awards are for lead actor and actress in a mini-series or television movie, and supporting performers in dramatic series and sitcoms.

'Hearts in Atlantis'

SCOTT Hicks' "Hearts in Atlantis" is a drama about love, courage and friendship. In the film, a middle-aged photographer recalls a strange friendship forged in 1960 between him as a boy of 11 and a mysterious lodger (**Anthony Hopkins**), who enlists his help to avoid a powerful danger that's pursuing him.

As the summer ends, Hopkins' character gives the boy (played by **Anton Yelchin**) a new understanding of his dead father, his self-obsessed mother, and the possibilities of life and love, before on rushing events overtake them all. Hopkins' pursuers close in, forcing the boy to find depths of courage and forgiveness he never though he had.

Female-friendly books and friendly competitors

(From page A22)

The publishers believed enough in the project to expand it from an on-line feature in women.com to a full-fledged book series. Part 2 is "The Breakup," and the last of the series is "Happily Ever After."

Debra Kent created the series, which is totally un-put-downable. The situations that Valerie go through in "The Affair" are nightmarish, and the reader feels compelled to read on to see how much worse it can get and how she'll manage to survive all the daggers being thrown her way.

Game masters all

On a totally different note, I must commend a very distinct display of what it means to be a gentleman as exemplified by **Christopher de Leon**.

Boyet has been promoting "American Adobo," a co-production of Unitel films and ABS-CBN, which is "Game KNB" territory. While we were both on the noontime show "MTB" last Saturday to judge the Calendar Girl finals, Boyet was very "game" in answering **John Estrada**'s query, "Sure *ka na ba?*" which I always ask in the game show I host.

Boyet didn't push the fact that he is the host of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," out of *delicadeza* since it's aired on a different network. He was introduced as the "Drama King," in line with the "American Adobo" promo, and understandably his being one of the country's top game masters was not mentioned. In contrast, my introduction highlighted my being the "reigning queen of game shows" as host of "Game KNB."

In fairness to Boyet, he never exhibited any discomfort or uttered a complaint. I felt that since I was in home territory, I should be hospitable enough to mention on the air the fact that Millionaire would be back on the air in February after its seven-week hiatus. After all, it was the success of Millionaire that paved the way for Game KNB.

Boyet was clearly happy that I mentioned his show, and he thanked me with what I saw was a genuine smile on air and again off air when we were saying our personal farewells.

Our shows are in competition, but with guys as nice and as likeable as Boyet, and **Edu (Manzano**, host of "The Weakest Link"), there's no reason why we shouldn't be friendly competitors.

The three of us were guests together and for the first time ever, we were interviewed by **Sharon Cuneta** in the second part of her birthday celebration which was aired last night. Edu and I regarded each other with ease and genuine camaraderie. I was thrilled to be trading cheeky barbs with Edu, particularly when he kept referring to the strictness of the British representatives monitoring Weakest Link. *Ayokong magpatalo.* I floored him a bit when I said that if Millionaire and Weakest Link were important fare, I could proudly say that in the near future, if all talks and plans are realized, then Game KNB will be exported to two other Asean countries.

We came out just about even since Edu one-upped Boyet and me at the start of the interview when he produced a birthday gift for Sharon, which Boyet and I clearly hadn't thought of.

Yes-FM movie premiere

YES-FM 101.1 will sponsor the premiere of "Behind Enemy Lines," 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 15 at SM Megamall Cinema 10.

The premiere is the station's initial offering for the year 2002.

Listeners can win free movie premiere tickets by tuning in to Yes-FM and wait for the deejay's signal to call the station at 640-4747.

"Behind Enemy Lines" is an action-packed film starring Gene Hackman and Owen Wilson.

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QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
REMAR	WALANG IWANAN
REMAR-2	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAGONG BUWAN
B	WALANG IWANAN
C	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
CINEMA-3	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GIRL FEVER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	TATARIN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SPY GAME
CINEMA-12	ON THE LINE
CINEMA-14	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-15	LORD OF THE RINGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-3	SPY GAME
CINEMA-4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-5	SPY GAME
CINEMA-6	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
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11	ON THE LINE
12	TATARIN

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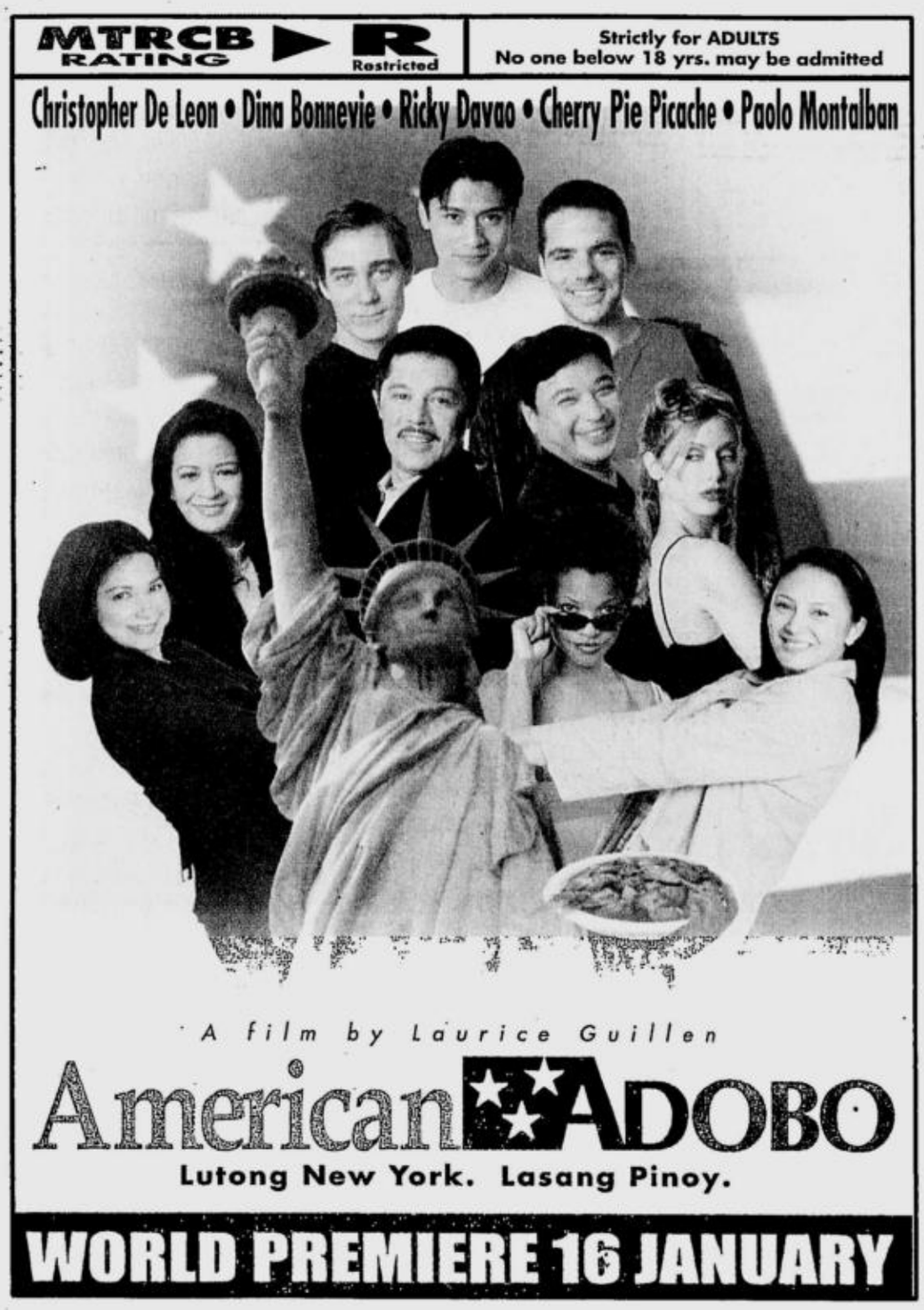
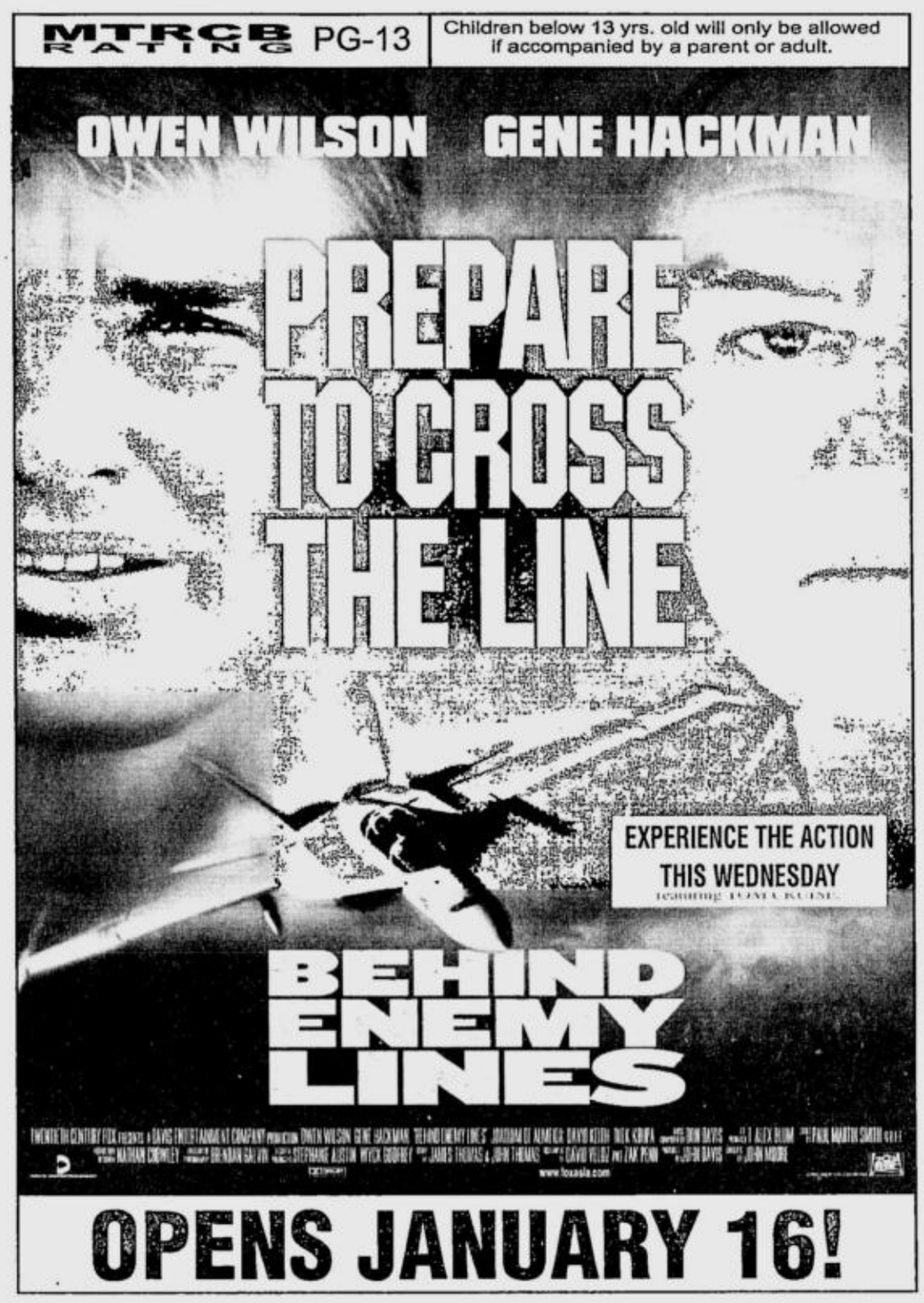
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor





Female-friendly books and friendly competitors

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I JUST finished a novel that's nearly 600 pages, "Sushi for Beginners," by Irish author **Marian Keyes**.

It is all about a year in the lives of three women. Lisa is a London editor who's transferred to Dublin and is tasked with launching a magazine geared specifically for Irish women. Ashling is her assistant editor, the good girl everyone relies on, who is destined to have her heart broken by the betrayal of her nearest friend. Clodagh is Ashling's best friend, living in what would seem like an ideal existence with a good looking, successful husband, two cute kids and a beautiful home, only to irresponsibly destroy all that.

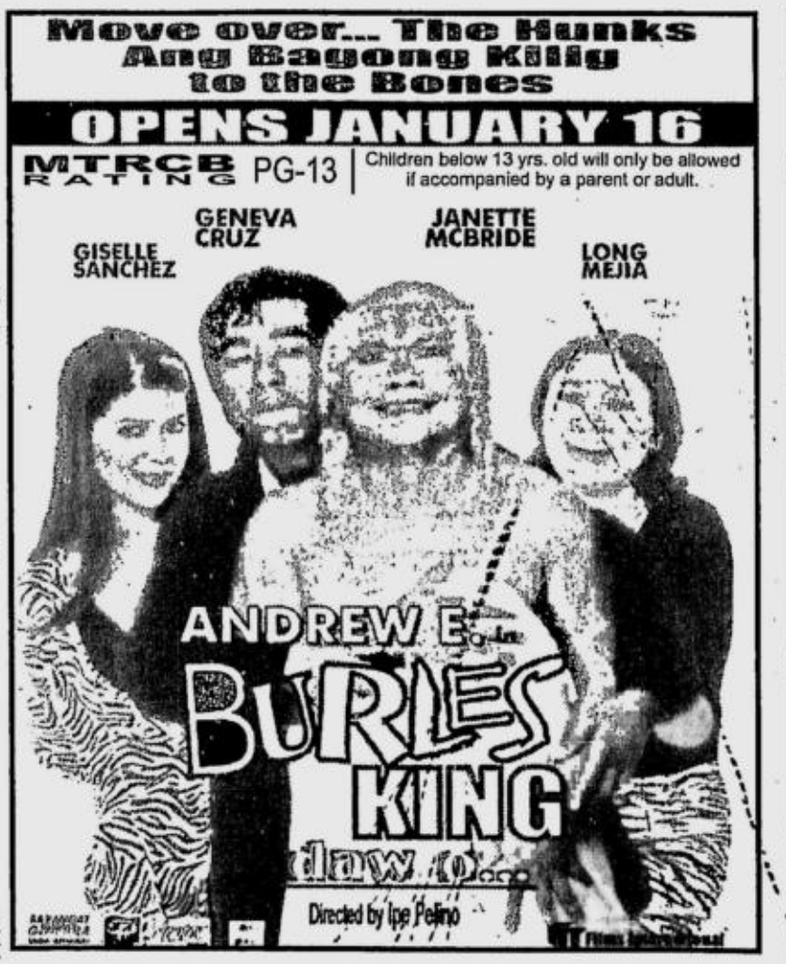
The book is long in comparison to other female-friendly works I've read, but to read every single page is definitely worth it. Keyes captures the career insecurities, romantic foibles and every woman's elusive search for happiness, with all the twists and turns, mistakes and triumphs that accompany the quest.

Most of all, the book reaffirms the forgotten notion that good girls don't always finish last. In fact, most often, the ones who are consistently good and the innately good girls who get waylaid but manage to get back on track are the ones that true happiness will find. More importantly, they are the ones who will have someone to share lasting happiness with.

Intriguing series

I just started reading "The Affair," the first of a three-part book series titled "The Diary of V" that I recently purchased. I first chanced upon a sample entry of "The Diary of V" in Redbook magazine and I was intrigued with the life of **Valerie Ryan**.

FEMALE/ A20



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Gov't to insist on full representation in SMC

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE MACAPAGAL administration will insist on full representation not only in San Miguel Corp.'s 15-member board of directors but in all committees and subsidiaries of the food and beverage giant.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said that full representation of the sequestered shares in SMC was one of the elements that the government wanted to put in the proposed interim agreement with SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

Roxas is chief of the government committee, which includes Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac and Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, reviewing the terms of Kirin Brewery's $540-million buy-in into SMC.

The government not only wanted to replace the five Estrada nominees in SMC's board with its own nominees but it also wanted government representation in all management committees, particularly the executive committee, the audit committee, the compensation committee and all of the firms subsidiaries, both listed and unlisted.

Roxas said the government would compel Cojuangco to allocate proxies as maybe necessary to ensure that the government was sufficiently represented in SMC's crucial policy meetings.

The PCGG's failure to boot out the Estrada nominees during last year's stockholders' meeting enabled Cojuangco to practically control SMC's entire operations without any real check-and-balance on the board and committee levels.

Roxas said the government negotiating committee wanted to ensure

ROXAS

the preservation of SMC's assets and enhance good corporate governance in SMC's management while the legal dispute with Cojuangco on the coconut levy-funded shares was being resolved by the courts.

"The proposed agreement will be a two-year pact with an early termination clause should the courts rule before the contract ends," said Roxas, who stressed that the court cases against Cojuangco would continue even with the adoption of an interim agreement with the Macapagal administration.

The government has been wary of Cojuangco's gambit to bring in Kirin as an investor because it would dilute the coconut levy-funded shares in SMC while allowing Cojuangco to consolidate his hold on SMC.

Roxas said the committee's review showed that the deal between Cojuangco and Kirin "served to circumscribe or limit the range of actions that SMC could take in order to protect Kirin's interest." "There are specific limitations but in any decision, both parties have to agree or the status quo should be kept," Roxas said.

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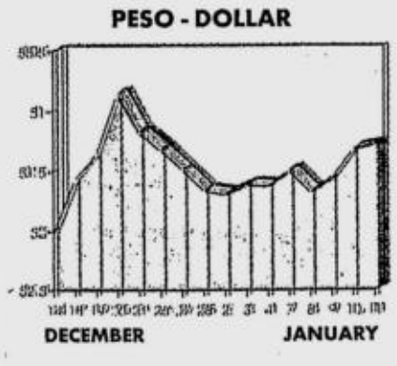


GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱51.28 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 11, 2002

¥132.36 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 11, 2002

GOLD:$287.40/287.90

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 11, 2002

STOCK MARKET

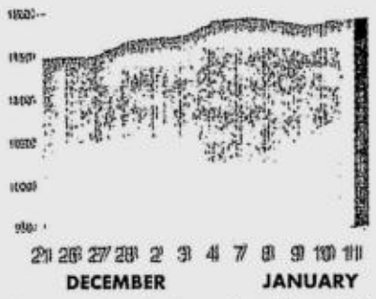
Profit-taking seen

LOCAL stocks are seen to hover within a tight range this week as more investors start locking in gains from the market's rise since mid-November.

Talks about destabilization plots against the fledgling Macapagal administration are also expected to dampen investor enthusiasm.

Last week, blue chips started to yield to profit-taking pressure but some bargain-hunting in the latter part of the week allowed the main-share PSE composite index to gain 1.71 points or 0.14 percent week-on-week to close at 1,191.60 on Friday. *(Story on page B6.)*

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

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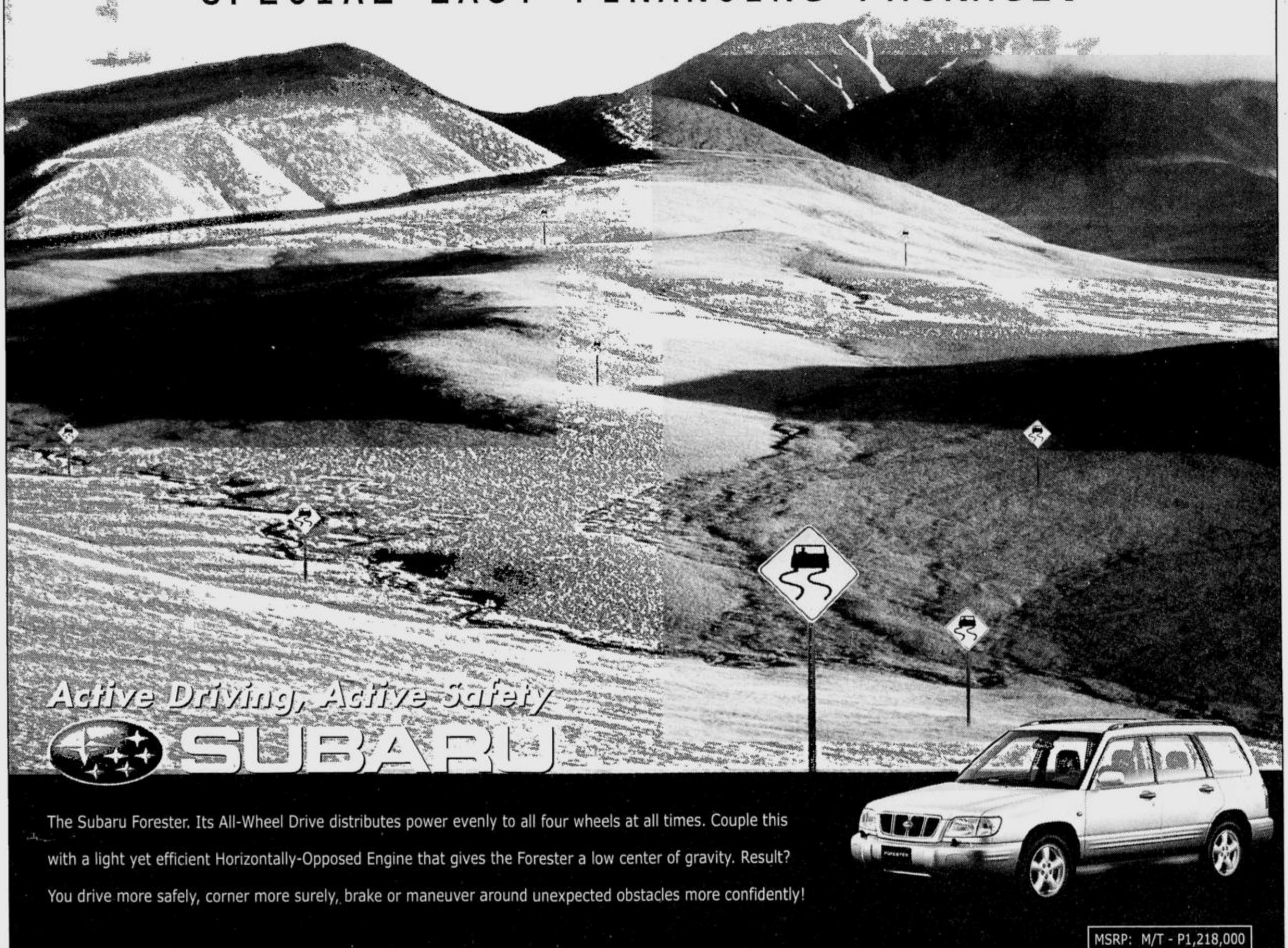

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Mindanao's economy: Prospects and challenges for 2002

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilagan Bian

PAINTING the Mindanao scenario for 2002 requires two things: revisiting the past and remembering the nature of the economic structure of Mindanao.

The lifeblood of Mindanao's economy is agriculture, which accounts for about 38 percent of the country's total agricultural output and 44 percent of the country's total domestic food trade. The island's manufacturing sector is also dependent on agriculture, fishery and forestry as shown by its major export products such as canned tuna, pineapples and crude coconut oil. Performance in the service sector is significantly affected by the performance in the agricultural sector as majority of the firms in Mindanao are agribusiness firms, and trading largely revolves around agricultural goods. This implies that the key to analyzing the prospects for Mindanao this year would be to look at the factors that affect the agricultural sector.

Let us revisit some facts and figures. The overall performance of the country's agricultural sector as of the third quarter last year was not bad, posting an increase of about 2.9 percent compared with the previous year. This is better than the industry sector but not as good as the service sector, which performed quite well due to a booming communications sub-sector.

But what's the impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States on Mindanao's agricultural sector and its economy in general? With the United States and Japan, which account for more than 50 percent of the island's export market, suffering from economic slowdown, it is not surprising that many are concerned about the performance of the island's economy, particularly in the first two quarters of 2002 when the economic downtrend is expected to reach its rock bottom. In fact, Mindanaoans participated quite actively in the last Economic Summit, which was triggered by the Sept. 11 attacks. Their active involvement in the summit may reflect the magnitude of their concern about the impact of the attack on Mindanao's economy.

While recovery is expected toward the third quarter of next year, the recovery for Mindanao's agriculture will perhaps come earlier if blessed with a good climate and stable agricultural export prices during the year. This is because food is a necessity, and consumption is not expected to drastically decline given a decrease in purchasing power. This is the advantage of agricultural products over non-agricultural products particularly the luxury of goods, of which demand is expected to decrease once purchasing power wanes. If demand for the top two agricultural exports (banana and tuna) weakens during the first two quarters of 2002, the United States and Japans' poor economic performance may not be considered the key culprit. Mindanao entrepreneurs in these industries are resilient and are gearing toward making themselves competitive and responsive to the opportunities in the market. Banana firms, for example, are shifting toward increasing production of sweet bananas grown in the upland areas as these varieties are now in demand and are commanding better prices. They are more worried in maintaining quality, political stability in the government and effective negotiations regarding market access to protectionist markets. However, if foreign exports fail, domestic exports for Mindanao products may help boost the economy particularly when the high cost of shipping is addressed. The peace and order situation in Mindanao may not be a key factor for export industries considering the fact that between 1999 and 2000, when the Estrada administration launched an all-out war policy, Mindanao exports managed to increase by 19 percent.

However, this is a key factor for the infusion of private investments into Mindanao. The peace and order situation remains to be the top issue for businessmen as highlighted in the recent major business conferences held in Manila (27th Philippine Business Conference) and in Mindanao (10th Mindanao Business Conference) including the Economic Summit held early this month. It is sad to note that the country's total foreign investments decreased by 25 percent as of the third quarter last year compared with the previous year's level. Mindanao's investments have been declining since 1998 and they dropped by 29 percent between 1999 and 2000. As of the third quarter last year, investments in Southern Mindanao were only less than 25 percent of the investment figures in the same period the previous year. This declining trend in investment infusion implies more unemployment, compounding the high poverty incidence in the island and exacerbating security problems. This scenario excludes the impact of a proposed P125 wage hike on unemployment.

With a bleak private investment scenario, public investments are critical for Mindanao. There is a long list of reasons why public investments are needed. This includes the high poverty incidence, poor infrastructure facilities, and peace and order problems. This implies the need for a higher budget for Mindanao but unfortunately, we have not been very successful in getting at least a third of the country's total public infrastructure funds. In the Afma budget for example, while Mindanao got the highest allocation among the three island regions, its share was only 17 percent of the country's total Afma budget. It should be noted that more than half of the budget is allocated as discretionary fund lodged at the DA-Central Office. But with the move of the national government to accelerate the development of the agricultural and fisheries sector of Mindanao, a bigger budget coming from the discretionary fund may be expected. Moreover, with the renewed support to revitalize BIMP-Eaga, more public investments to pump-prime Mindanao's economy may be forthcoming. These investments are critical in developing the service sector including tourism. Public investments are also needed to establish Mindanao as the third e-Service hub of the country.

Developing Mindanao's agricultural sector remains to be the key strategy to cushion the impact of the economic slowdown in the first semester of 2002, expedite economic recovery and bring Mindanao into new heights of economic development.

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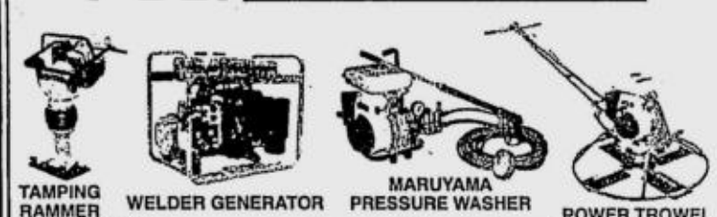

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BSP plans to prepay loans maturing in next 2 years

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is planning to borrow as much as $1billion this year to prepay loans maturing in 2003 and 2004 as spreads on Philippine debt continue to tighten.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that about $500 million worth of loans would fall due next year while another $500 million would be maturing in 2004.

"We are considering refinancing in advance our debt servicing requirements in the next two years, particularly in 2003. It will be cheaper for us to borrow now and take advantage of tighter spreads on Philippine debt," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The central bank wants to take advantage of declining spreads on emerging markets borrowings, including those of the Philippines. The spread on the $750 million, 15-year global bonds of the national government was only 4.5 percentage points over the prevailing rate on the 10-year US treasuries. This rate was much lower than the level right after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States at six percentage points over the Treasury rate.

Buenaventura said the central bank would strongly consider loans maturing between 2005 and 2007. "We have to tailor-fit the loan to our preferred maturity. But we do not need anything longer than three to five years," he said.

The BSP borrowed $550 million from the four-year bond market in November last year to help beef up the country's dollar reserves. The borrowing offered investors a yield of about 9 percent.

The central bank also borrowed about $950 million early last year from a syndicate of local and foreign banks to retire some $900 million worth of maturing obligations.

Last September, the BSP tapped a short-term loan worth $400 million to prevent the dollar reserves from falling below the psychological level of $14 billion.

"The tightening of the spreads on emerging markets borrowings shows that we are starting to decouple ourselves from Argentina," said Buenaventura.

PAL expects to post losses due to airline sector slowdown

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

PIONEER flag carrier Philippine Airlines Inc. said it would most likely post losses during the current fiscal year ending March because of the global airline industry slowdown.

PAL president Avelino Zapanta said in a telephone interview last week that the company was on its way to its third year of profitability when terrorists struck in major cities in the United States on Sept. 11, causing a worldwide economic downturn.

Zapanta added that despite the holiday season travel boom, PAL would "most likely be losing money."

To help the local airline industry recover, the Manila International Airport Authority shelved all plans to increase its rates this year. It even gave airlines discounts on landing fees and office rental fees.

"We're giving the airlines a 2.5-percent discount on landing fees and a 50-percent discount on office rental fees starting Jan. 1. We've also shelved all our proposed rate increases for the whole of 2002," MIAA chief Edgardo Manda said in an earlier interview.

But Zapanta said the "discounts would help, but not much."

"The government can help us more by protecting the airline industry, especially in the exchange of traffic sites. We're (usually) on the losing end, so we don't earn," he said.

Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview that PAL submitted to them a position paper opposing the Philippine-Korea amendatory air rights agreement signed in November last year.

Zapanta said the local industry had asked the government to reconsider the terms of the agreement. Instead of asking for additional frequencies, he said the Philippines should have asked for additional seats.

"Other international carriers have much bigger aircraft than ours. Our A330s that fly to Korea have less than 200 seats, while the Korean airlines have much bigger aircraft," he said.

Flight frequencies are not dependent on the number of passengers an aircraft can carry per flight. With the local carriers' smaller aircraft, Zapanta said, "we Philippine carriers are the ones making a livelihood for them (foreign carriers)."

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Due from Central Bank	1,626,730,570.58
Due from Other Banks	2,790,843,793.97
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	1,000,004,374.83
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)	3,863,764,908.32
Equity Investments (Net)	2,579,850.00
Due from Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad	1,145,906,978.83
Bank Premises, Furnitures, Fixtures and Equipments (Net)	15,567,460.99
Other Assets (Net): Others	183,257,022.93
TOTAL ASSETS	P 10,633,464,351.08

LIABILITIES	
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Savings Deposits	2,068,708,832.06
Time Deposits	1,897,506,234.56
Special/Other Deposits	20,785,511.48
Due to Central Bank	2,477,541.32
Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad	5,332,362,334.85
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	2,846,591.10
Bills Payable	
Interbank Borrowings	41,675,154.35
Others	461,672,112.81
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	267,529.45
Other Liabilities	146,996,816.77
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 10,155,070,047.99

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	Amount
Assigned Capital	P 444,323,634.54
Other Capital Accounts	34,070,668.55
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 478,394,303.09
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 10,633,464,351.08

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P 662,027,292.33
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	1,518,389,550.71
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	2,156,281,093.88
Other Contingent Accounts	2,167,594,582.19
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 6,504,292,519.09

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
HEAD OFFICE
As At 30 September 2001
In AUD Millions

Capital	5,259
Surplus	5,292
Profits	4,562
Total Deposits	104,874
Total Resources	185,493

LIST OF SENIOR OFFICERS:

Mr. Johnny Co	General Manager and Country Head
Mr. David Hulme	Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Nonilo Cruz	Senior Vice President - Business Banking
Ms. Regina Fajardo	Vice President - Treasury
Mrs. Bee Lian So	Vice President - International Services

Other Information

1.	Deposits of:		
	a. Government		nil
	b. Banks		403,265.50
	c. Trust Department		nil
2.	Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
	Prescribed Ratio	6% Small Ent.	2% Medium Ent.
	Actual Compliance	100%	129%
3.	Amount of Non-Performing Loans		P 173,161,020.35
4.	Ratio of Non-Performing loans to total loan portfolio		4.31%
5.	Amount of classified loans and other risk assets		184,311,000.00
6.	General Provision for Loan Losses		51,664,306.24
7.	Specific Provision for Loan Losses		98,660,213.69
8.	Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Assigned Capital		38.81%
	Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Shareholder's Equity		21.91%
	Return on Equity (ROE) - Inclusive of Net Due to HO		7.35%
9.	Amount of DOSRI loans/advances		2,899,873.07
10.	Ratio of DOSRI loans/adv to total loans/advances		0.07%
11.	Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans /advances		nil
12.	Ratio of Past Due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio		nil
13.	"Net Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad" forms part of capital of Philippine Branch of foreign bank		P 4,166,475,356.02

*Amended to conform with Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 29, 1999.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

WE, JOHNNY CO and DAVID HULME of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) JOHNNY CO
General Manager and Country Head

(Sgd.) DAVID HULME
Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 10 January 2002, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificate No. 09136825, issued at Manila City, on February 8, 2001 and Passport No. E7026356, issued at Australia, on September 19, 1996.

BENJAMIN B. MATA
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until Dec. 31, 2002
PTR No. 8453126WDTD
Date Issued 02 January 2002

Doc. No. 282
Book No. 58
Page No. 111
Series of 02

Hot calendar

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

IT USED to be that the annual calendar from Tanduay was the most awaited wall pin-up among the hot-blooded male Pinoys around Christmastime.

Now it looks like the Tanduay boys have been beaten in their own game by the nerdish daughter of taipan John Gokongwei Jr.

Unlike Tanduay, which gives away free cheesecake calendar every year, Lisa Gokongwei decided to hock her version for P295 each. That's right, P295, and all sold out, all 20,000 of them.

Produced under FHM, the British men's magazine which Gokongwei distributes locally, the hot calendar featured the latest *"pantasya ng bayan"* (literally, nation's fantasy), actress Assunta de Rossi, in various stages of undress.

And instead of just one poster-sized pin-up, the FHM calendar buyers got 14 De Rossi fantasies, one for every month of the year, plus two bonus months.

We ourselves have not seen the calendar, although we did receive digital copies of the photos through the Internet.

We found the photos sexy, rather than erotic. (The lucky photographer is a young chap by the name of Xander Angeles. The shoots were taken in the resort town of Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.) Still, we understand that the leading bookstore chain would rather have none of it when the De Rossi calendar was offered to the store for distribution.

The bookstore's local calendar, by the way, featured saints and their feast days.

The rejection prompted Gokongwei to instead tap the newsstands which, despite, their lower-class market moorings, sold out the calendar even before Christmas.

Because it was gobbled up like the proverbial hotcakes, only 10 percent of the De Rossi calendar managed to trickle out to the provincial outlets, according to the grapevine.

For those who may be interested for extra copies, the word is that there would be no reprints.

Slow lane to flyover

IT WAS supposed to have been finished by Christmas. But now work on the Rockwell flyover has proceeded, like the traffic on rush-hour Edsa, down to a crawl.

According to the Rockwell grapevine, tight work window, and not parent company Benpres' foreign debt problem, caused construction work to proceed in stages.

Work on the Edsa side can only commence by midnight, when the light rail stops operating, and stops by dawn, before the first train comes rolling along.

Work on the Estrella Street side, on the other hand, can only be done during the day, because of residential concerns.

In any case, the flyover, which should be the fastest route from the Ayala Center and the Makati central business district to Rockwell, has now been targeted for completion, cross your fingers, by March. Year 2002, of course.

Marcelo's links

THE LAWYER of opposition battering ram Pacifico Marcelo, Vicente de la Cerna, used to be a partner in the San Juan Africa law office, in turn the long-time counsel of the Marcos and Estrada cronies in the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp.

Philcomsat, where Marcelo was appointed by President Estrada as a government director despite Marcelo being an American citizen, is still chaired by Carmelo "Butch" Africa, who was also appointed by Erap to head the Philcomsat board on account of Africa's being a *kumpare* of Erap son Jinggoy Estrada.

Africa, in turn, is a first cousin of Victor Africa of the San Juan Africa law office.

Heard through the grapevine

INSTEAD of July, the wedding of presidential son Mickey Arroyo and Angela Montenegro may be moved to April to coincide with President Macapagal's birthday. Problems with the President's schedule apparently prompted the new altar date. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Goings . . .

(From page B4)

national Zero-Accident Program.

The award serves as an incentive for organizations to promote voluntary compliance through best OSH programs and practices. This biennial award is conferred to companies complying with OSH standards and requirements.

Lepanto saves P7M

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. has concluded an auction for pine logs at SourcePilipinas.com which resulted in P7 million in savings from their last purchase price, or a reduction of over 30 percent. Pine logs are used in the company's underground mining operations in Mankayan, Benguet.

Lepanto, one of SourcePilipinas' pioneer trading partners, has been transacting through the e-marketplace for over a year. Last month's auction was the first for pine logs. The winning bid bested 41 other bids from numerous foreign supplier.

SourcePilipinas is a multiindustry B2B horizontal e-marketplace powered by Oracle's latest exchange technologies. Trading partners are allowed access to an extensive catalogue offering both direct and indirect materials. In addition, various auction facilities are available for both buyers and sellers.

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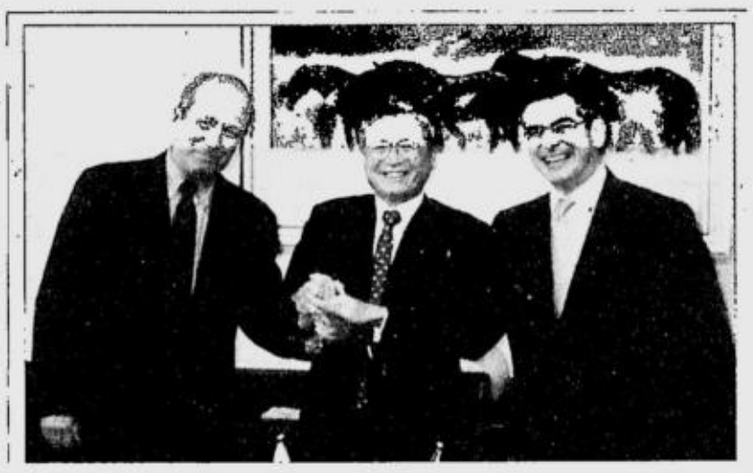

BPI and Mitsui Sumitomo form BPI/MS Insurance Corporation

Bank of the Philippine Islands signed a memorandum of agreement with Mitsui Sumitomo of Japan on a joint venture in non-life insurance in the Philippines. As a result of this agreement, FGU Insurance Corporation and FEB Mitsui Marine Insurance Company, two of the top ten non-life insurers in the country, will combine their operations and a new entity known as BPI/MS Insurance Corporation will be formed. Mitsui Sumitomo holds 49% of this new company while BPI group holds the majority. Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Ayala Corporation President and BPI Vice Chairman of the Board, and BPI President Xavier P. Loinaz are shown here joining hands with Mitsui Sumitomo Chairman and CEO Takeo Inokuchi to symbolize the new partnerhsip. BPI executives flew to Japan to formalize the joint venture agreement.

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October 27, 2001 to January 31, 2002
BAGONG TAON, BAGONG HARI NG DAAN
Pang-hanapbuhay Papremyo ng Seaoil
SEAOIL Katuwang Mo Sa Hanapbuhay
1ST PRIZE 1 TOYOTA REVO DLX DIESEL 2000 MODEL
Sa highway ng buhay natin, maghanapbuhay habang nag-si-Seaoil. Dahil dito, may instant-premyo scratch card ka na, may pang-hanapbuhay raffle coupon ka pa! Huwag magpahuli, baka sakali ikaw na ang manalo ng bagong pang-hanapbuhay na hari ng daan, ang Toyota Revo DLX Diesel, sa pagdating ng bagong taon
SCRATCH CARD
Simple lang para manalo!
1 Ang premyo ng 2x ay para sa mga customers ng Seaoil Petroleum. Ang participating outlets ay nasa Metro Manila at provincial stations na magsisimula ng October 20 2001 hanggang January 31, 2002
2 Sa bawat P300-halaga ng bunting Seaoil Fuel Products kasama o Seaoil Patamg dami imaging sa isang beses o sa mga sa unang mga resibo ng pagbili, sa loob ng promo period makakahuli ang customer ng isang game card
INSTANT PANG-HANAPBUHAY SCRATCH PAPREMYO:
3 I scratch ang tatlong silver squares sa card. Ang tatlo ng scratch cards ay may security code. Ito premyong makukuha kung may nakuha sa alternating mga kombinasyong ito:
3 Seaoil logos= 1 Seaoil Special Prize
1 Produkto logo = 1 Seaoil Premium Item
4 Sa pagkuha ng instant na premyo, kailangang i-scratch ang scratch card portion sa Station Officer-in- Charge para ma- validate.
5 Ang lahat ng instant scratch-card prizes ay dapat ma-claim bago mag-March 31 2002. Ang premyong hindi na-claim sa duration na ito ay mananatong sa forfeited status sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation, sa prior approval ng DTI
6 Ang mga nanalong game cards na may winning combination at authenticated security features lamang ang gumagong manalo. Hindi dapat tanggalin ng customer ang latex sa "VOID IF SCRATCHED" panel. Ang alternate game card na matatanong na misma pwedeng mawala bago sa anumang pamasa o iba pa mabawing security code ay agad na matanong na null and void
RAFFLE-HANAPBUHAY RAFFLE PAPREMYO
7 Guplan ang portion ng raffle entry para makasali sa raffle draw. Sa raffle portion ng game card ay dapat isulat ng customer ang kanyang pangalan address telepono at lagdaan at ibalot sa designated drop box sa participating outlet o kaya dapat sa legal sized white envelope at ipadala ang mga entries sa
"Bagong Taon Bagong Hari Ng Daan"
c/o Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office
G/F Member Building 29 Annapolis Street, Greenhills San Juan, Metro Manila
8 Ang deadline ng pag submit ng entries ay sa January 31, 2002 hanggang 6 o' clock ng gabi
9 Ang raffle ay gagawin sa February 8, 2002, sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office G/F Member Building #29 Annapolis Street Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila sa presence of a DTI representative, para sa mga sumusunod na prizes:
First Prize - 1 Toyota Revo DLX Diesel 2000 Model (excluding all registration requirements)
Second Prizes - 2 Kawasaki HD-125CC Motorcycles (excluding all registration requirements) para sa 3 winners
Third Prize - 5 Internet Highway Ready PC's para sa 5 winners, complete set of monitor, cpu, cd rom and modem
Consolation Prizes - 10 Nokia Phones (Nokia 3310, units only) para sa 10 winners
10 Ang mananalo ng lahat ng raffle prizes ay padala nang registered mail. Sa pagkuha ng premyo, kailangang mag-presenta ng kahit na anong valid ID (company's school ID, passport, driver's license, at kailangan ding ipakita ang nalanggap na resi/receipt)
11 Ang lahat ng raffle prizes ay transferable nguni hindi sila convertible to cash. Seaoil Petroleum Corp. ang magtatakda ng 20% tax sa lahat ng premyong higit sa P 10,000
12 Ang isang customer ay pwede lamang manalo ng isang beses. Kung nabunot nang dalawang beses ang kanyang pangalan makukuha niya lamang ang isang premyong may mas mataking halaga at mag-dedesisyon para sa bakanteng premyo
13 Ang lahat ng napanalunang premyo sa draw ay pwedeng makuha sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office G/F Member Building #29 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila mula 9:00 a.m hanggang 5:00 p.m. Lunes hanggang Biyernes
14 Kapag hindi na-claim ang isang premyo sa loob ng 60 araw mula sa araw ng notification ang premyo ay daluning sa federal post sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation sa prior approval ng DTI
15 Ang lahat ng raffle draw winners ay dapat sumaog dyan na matunaro o di kaya mutpagay ng kinta para sa distributions announcement of winners pend ng Seaoil
16 Ang lahat ng empleyado ng Seaoil Petroleum Corporation mga sister companies nito, Masterminds Asia Communications mga suppliers ng Seaoil, at mga Seaoil dealers, at ang kanilang mga kamag-anak hanggang sa second degree of affinity or consanguinity ay diskuwalipikado sa pagsali sa scratch at raffle promong ito. (S)
2ND PRIZE 3 KAWASAKI HD3 125 CC MOTORCYCLES
3RD PRIZE 5 INTERNET HIGHWAY READY PC'S COMPLETE SET W/ MONITOR, CPU, CD ROM AND MODEM
CONSOLATION PRIZE 10 MOBILE PHONES (NOKIA 3310, units only)
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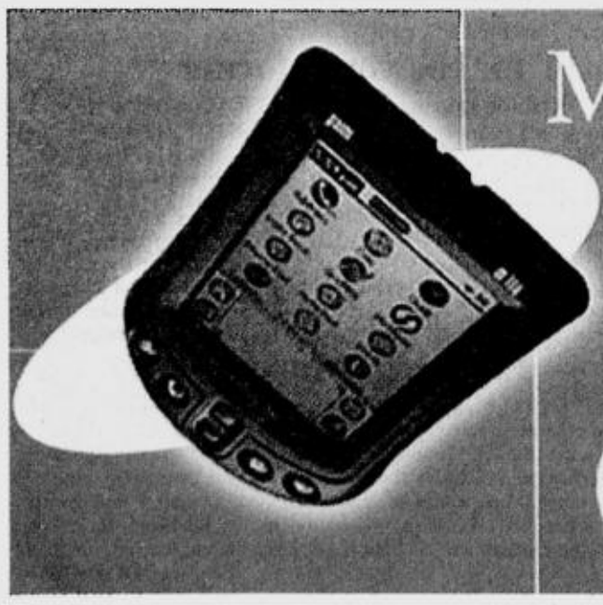

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Gov't to spend P124B on construction projects

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE PHILIPPINE economy is expected to get a big boost from an aggressive construction spending this year by the public sector, which is set to invest about P124 billion through various government-owned and -controlled corporations and agencies.

National Economic and Development Authority data showed that the fiscal stimulus to be provided by the government would perk up the construction sector, a key component of the industry sector, by 3.1-3.6 percent this year. The projected growth rate will be much better than the measly 0.8-percent growth projection for 2001 and the 3.7-percent contraction registered in 2000.

"There's a sizeable amount of funds from the public sector that will kick up construction activities this year," Neda Deputy Director General Gilbert Llanto said.

Public sector investments in construction, seen to lead the overall performance of the industry, are seen to grow by 4.2-4.7 percent this year.

Private construction activities are also expected to post a turnaround this year with a growth of 2-2.5 percent, from a contraction of 1.7 percent in 2001 and 1.5 percent in 2000.

Llanto noted that some P83 billion in funds have been budgeted this year for the construction expenditures of key government agencies, with the Department of Public Works and Highways gobbling up the lion's share of P40.22 billion.

Also, Llanto said that several GOCCs, led by state-controlled National Power Corp., were expected to spend about P41 billion for their infrastructure requirements.

Overall, the Neda is projecting that government spending in construction will grow by 2.3-2.8 percent as against the 0.6 percent expected contraction for 2001 and the 1.1-percent decline in 2000.

This is expected to be complemented by a 3.5- to 3.8-percent growth in private sector spending, or almost at par with the expected 3.4-percent expansion in 2001 and the actual growth of 3.5 percent in 2000.

Neda statistics showed that about P10.46 billion would be released for the implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, especially for the construction of farm-to-market roads and communal and national irrigation facilities.

The breakdown of the budget to various agencies or programs are as follows: Department of Agriculture (P1.81 billion); Agrarian Reform Fund (P3.22 billion), and National Irrigation Authority (P5.43 billion).

The Department of Telecommunications and Communications will get P7.18 billion for the construction, rehabilitation and improvement of its facilities.

The Department of Education will get P2.84 billion for its computerization program, regional operations and elementary/secondary school programs.

Among the GOCCs, Napocor will spend about P23.36 billion for its geothermal and transmission projects nationwide.

Among other major infrastructure expenditures of GOCCs are:

- The P5.54-billion fixed assets acquisition project of the Light Railway Transit Authority for LRT Line 1 and 2;
- The P3.18 billion worth of projects of the Public Ports Authority, partly for the Batangas Port development;
- The P2.04 billion worth of housing programs of the National Housing Authority;
- The P1.48-billion cooperative lending project of the National Electrification Administration; and
- The P1.45 billion worth of water supply projects of the Local Water Utility Authority.

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The senior citizen stigma

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

IF there is one law that needs to be completely rehashed, it is the Senior Citizens Law embodied in Republic Act No. 7432, "an act to maximize the contribution of senior citizens to nation building, to grant benefits and special privileges and for other purposes."

The law is supposed to give flesh to the constitutional provision that: "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children."

To start, a new bureaucracy was set up: the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (Osca) in the Office of the Mayor. Osca is headed by a councilor named by the Sangguniang Bayan and aided by the community development officer in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Osca performs various functions, but its main job is to issue nationally uniform individual identification cards, which are valid anywhere in the country. The ID card has become another way for politicians to dispense favors to their constituents.

To maximize the contribution of senior citizens to nation building, any qualified senior citizen as determined by the Osca may render service to the community, such as tutorial and consultancy services, actual teaching and demonstration of hobbies and income generating skills, lectures on specialized fields like agriculture, health, environmental protection. For his trouble, the senior citizen may be awarded or granted benefits or privileges by Osca on top of the basic privileges under the act.

The basic privileges are: 20-percent discount in all establishments relative to the use of transportation services, hotels and similar lodging establishments, restaurants and recreation centers, and the purchase of medicine anywhere in the country; a minimum of 20-percent discount on admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses, carnivals and other similar places of culture, leisure and amusement; exemption from the payment of individual income tax, provided the taxable income does not exceed the poverty level as determined by the Neda; exemption from training fees for socioeconomic programs undertaken by the Osca; free medical and dental services in government establishments, subject to guidelines of the Department of Health, GSIS and SSS; the continuance of the same benefits and privileges given by GSIS, SSS and Pag-Ibig, as enjoyed by those in actual service, but only to the extent practicable and feasible. Notice that for every benefit, there is a proviso hooked onto it. The law's generosity is half-hearted.

But the biggest proviso is in the term "senior citizen," which the law defines as "any resident of the Philippines at least 60 years old, including those who have retired from both government offices and private enterprises, and has an income of not more than **P60,000 per annum** (emphasis mine), subject to review by the National Economic and Development Authority every three years." (As far as I know, no such review has ever been made.)

This income threshold means the law is for the poor senior citizens. Well and good. But the law leaves a wide loophole. I know a small group of elderly matrons, all unemployed because their husbands are wealthy. They meet once a month at lunch in a five-star hotel. When the bill comes, they flash their ID cards and are granted their usual 20-percent discount. All perfectly legal. On the other hand, a wife who has to continue working after age 60 because she does not have a wealthy husband will not qualify for an ID, and the 20-percent discount, without cheating the Osca on her income .

The small- or medium-sized establishment is usually harsh on the senior citizen. When he sits down at a restaurant, a waiter insultingly asks, "Do you have a senior citizen's card?" At a drugstore, if your prescription is for an expensive drug, the counter clerk will probably tell you the store is out of stock.

The ID card is the modern begging bowl. It brands the senior citizen with the stigma of poverty. If he is poor, why must the law require him to publicly prove it with a card thereby robbing him of his self-respect?

If Congress really wants to help the senior citizens, the law must be re-oriented. The senior citizen should not be made to beg. The law must recognize that society owes the senior citizen for his long service to the community. Congress can start by taking away the income threshold and the identification card.

Mutual fund invests P1B in Banco de Oro

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

CAMBRIDGE Pacific Fund, a Cayman Islands-registered mutual fund, invested P1 billion in Banco de Oro Universal Bank in mid-December and is now evaluating possible additional capital infusion into the bank, Banco de Oro president Nestor Tan said.

Cambridge was reportedly keen on investing as much as P2 billion in Banco de Oro, the bank controlled by retail magnate Henry Sy.

Tan said the P1-billion investment made last December has given Cambridge less than 10-percent stake in the universal bank and boosted the bank's capital to around P11.5 billion.

Banco de Oro started last year with a capital base of roughly P5.5 billion, but its capital has gone up steadily on the back of the completion of several other transactions in the latter half of last year. These were the conversion of P3.5 billion in preferred shares into common shares, a share-swap deal that allowed the bank to own its Ortigas Center-based headquarters and an adjacent property, and the absorption of Dao Heng Bank.

Banco de Oro's capital base is expected to go up further once it undertakes an initial public offering of 10 percent to 20 percent of its outstanding capital stock.

Under the rules of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Banco de Oro is required to list at least 10 percent of its shares through a public offering within three years after getting its universal bank license. The bank was supposed to have gone public over three years ago but has been able to get extensions several times since the first deadline lapsed.

Tan said the bank wanted to postpone the IPO until the stock market improved.

"I think the situation is that market valuation of banks is very low so we're hoping it moves up a little bit. Listing at this time would be unfair to our depositors and shareholders," Tan said.

BIR '01 collections seen to fall short of target

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is expected to register a collection shortfall of about P2.7 billion last year but the government remained confident that the budget deficit for the period was contained within the P145-billion target.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in a briefing with foreign correspondents on Friday, cited meeting the P145-billion deficit ceiling as among the achievements of her administration last year.

BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez said that the government was still finalizing the numbers but as of late last week, the agency's collection was already 99.29 percent of its target. This, however, translates to a shortfall of about P2.7 billion.

Bañez said the BIR was hoping that another P1.2 billion to P1.5 billion would be added on the amount when it reconciles its numbers this week.

The BIR chief also said that the agency has yet to collect some P3 billion in reimbursement certificates from oil companies.

These certificates form part of the oil companies' excise tax payments but the funding will come from the government as part of the state's unpaid obligations to the Oil Price Stabilization Fund.

Bañez said the funding for the reimbursement certificates might not come soon enough to be included in the 2001 figures but he said he was confident that it would be paid within the year.

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'Health coffee' in RP

GANO Excel Philippines is now manufacturing in the country the popular "health coffee"—the Gano Café 3-in-1. This will ensure the availability of the product in the local market at a more affordable price.

The health coffee was approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).

As a Philippine affiliate, Gano Excel Phils. was authorized by Malaysia-based Gano Excel Int'l. to have Gano Café 3-in-1 locally mixed under strict quality supervision following Gano Excel's Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Standards.

Gano Café contains ganoderma extract, consisting of red mushroom species that are noted for their nutritional benefits to human health.

Gano Café is the brainchild of Leow Soon Seng, founder of the Malaysia-based company established in 1995.

IT for the youth forum

THE STI Basic Education Department and the STI Foundation for Leadership in Information Technology and Education (STI-FLITE) will sponsor a forum on the impact of IT on basic education in the Philippines.

The forum, which is expected to bring together 200 people from the academe and the IT profession, will be held at the Walter Hogan Conference Center, Institute for Social Order at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City on Jan. 15.

The four-hour conference aims to bring together various stakeholders to discuss the relevance, issues and concerns of teaching IT to children and to draw up policy recommendations that could serve as basis for future legislation.

PGI bags awards

TWO of this year's Gawad Kaligtasan at Kalusugan (GKK) institutional awards in the large-scale enterprise (electricity, gas and water) category were given to Philippine Geothermal Inc., the country's pioneer geothermal energy developer.

PGI was conferred the awards for it sTiwi and Mak-Ban assets in recognition of the company's outstanding achievements in occupational safety and health.

The GKK is a national award sponsored by the Occupational Safety and Health Center of the Department of Labor and Employment in support of the

GOINGS/ B3

RP to seek debt relief for NSC

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

INDUSTRY Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II will lead a team of government officials and bankers to Kuala Lumpur next week to seek the consent of Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd. for a writedown of the Malaysian debt rehabilitation agency's $800-million exposure in National Steel Corp.

Roxas told reporters that the Philippine team wanted to discuss personally with Danaharta its proposal for a more "permanent solution" to the liquidation of its 80-percent stake in NSC, which has been shuttered for the past two years. Roxas will go to Malaysia on Jan. 21.

"Our discussions might involve writedowns or debt-to-equity conversions which are hard to talk about over the telephone. When you're asking somebody to write down $800 million, it's better that you go there yourself than ask the other party to come here," Roxas said.

Danaharta took over the holdings of the Hottick-Renong group in NSC last year due to its failure to pay a 3-billion-ringgit loan from Malayan Banking, RHB Bank, Bank Bumiputra and Commerce Assetholding Bhd. Hottick-Renong used the loan to bail out the original Malaysian owners of NSC, the Westmont group.

RP/ B8

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Profit-taking seen to temper local stocks' rally this week

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

LOCAL stocks are seen to hover within a tight range this week as more investors start locking in gains from the market's rise since mid-November while talks about destabilization plots against the fledgling Macapagal administration are expected to dampen investor enthusiasm.

Last week, blue chips started to yield to profit-taking pressure but some modest bargain-hunting in the latter part of the week allowed the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index to gain 1.71 points or 0.14 percent week-on-week to close at 1,191.60 on Friday.

AB Capital securities analyst Jose Vistan said the market would be in a consolidation phase this week as the upside would be limited by profit-taking pressure as the index approaches the key resistance level at 1,250.

"Sentiments have turned mixed although the market has been exhibiting some underlying optimism. Much of the positive optimism has already been factored into share prices," he said.

Vistan noted that the current optimism was being fueled by a low-interest-rate environment, which is expected to bring fresh liquidity to the market. He explained that low rates could lure investors out of interest-bearing instruments and into other investments such as stocks.

"We are going to see a healthy correction for the next few days as the near-term corporate earnings announcements that are coming up are not going to be bullish news, so it's a little early to see a sustainable rally," he said.

BPI Securities analyst Spencer Yap said that over the short term, the market would still be locked in a tight range as investors were still in an accumulation phase over a wide range of issues.

"Longer-term outlook remains positive. The likelihood of a sustained rally would ultimately depend on confirming results on either economic or corporate performances. This could come as early as the second quarter but most likely in the second half. In addition, we would need to see increased foreign inflows into the stock market," Yap said.

Stock market portal 2tradeasia.com, on the other hand, said investors were still weighing the vote of confidence on the Macapagal administration.

"Rumored coup plots and/or the launch of another People Power revolt has resurrected from the grave and would only do the country harm than good. This threat is extremely untimely when government administrations are still adjusting from global economic problems. Moreover, expounding the issue would only tarnish our reputation and stall the recovery process. Its continuity would only lead to capital flight and lead to graver job losses," 2tradeasia.com said.

But while investors would likely choose to be cautious this week, 2tradeasia.com said the weakness arising from these jitters could provide a good opportunity for bargain-hunting.

"Equities investors are advised to select candidates that have established improving MACD (moving average convergence-divergence) indicators, without neglecting a listed entity's financial condition, potential earnings performance for 2002 and long-term survival strategies," 2tradeasia.com said.

It said the immediate support of the Phisix was at 1,170 and secondary support at 1,150 while the primary and secondary resistance levels were estimated at 1,190 and 1,200, respectively.

Gainers last week included International Container Terminal Services Inc., Ionics Circuits Inc., Ayala Land Inc., Filinvest land Inc., Ayala Corp., First Philippine Holdings Corp., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Petron Corp.

On the other hand, the losers were Music Corp., Benpres Corp., Meralco "B," Metro Pacific Corp., JG Summit, Equitable PCI Bank, SM Prime Holdings, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., La Tondeña Distillers Inc., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Philippine National Bank and San Miguel Corp. "B."

NOT FEASIBLE

Smart, Globe buck free voice-messages plan

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

CELLULAR giants Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. said it would not be feasible for them to offer free short voice messages in lieu of the free text messages they took away from subscribers in October last year and January this year.

National Telecommunications Commission chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said in an interview that the cellular firms presented their reasons during a recent meeting on why they would not be able to offer free short voice messaging to their subscribers.

"They submitted a written report to CCAD (common carriers authorization division) on why they couldn't implement short voice messaging. They said they will have problems adjusting their charging systems and that the transfer of free text messages into free voice messages is unclear. They also don't have enough capacity to handle free voice messages," he said.

Rio explained that with the existing per-minute charging scheme, it would really be difficult for the cellular firms to make adjustments that would accommodate charging for short voice messages. This also made it unclear how to translate free text messages into corresponding free voice minutes.

But a solution, he said, would be the implementation of the per-6-second charging scheme that is part of an NTC memorandum circular that Smart, Globe and its subsidiaries Pilipino Telephone Corp. and Isla Communications Inc. contested.

"If we could implement the per-6-second pulse charging, it would be easier to convert free text (messages) into free voice (minutes). A short voice message could cost P0.80 each, based on the current rate of P8 per minute," he explained.

The NTC circular is still pending resolution at the Court of Appeals. Even though the CA's decision lifted the temporary restraining order that the Quezon City regional trial court earlier handed down, the NTC could still not implement the circular because the telecommunications firms submitted motions for reconsideration.

Rio said they would try to work out an out-of-court settlement with the cellular service providers.

As for the cellular firms' not having enough capacity to handle short voice messages, Rio said they could not contest this as the NTC had no independent way of confirming the veracity of the statement.

"NTC findings show the telcos' (telecom companies) systems were 40-percent underutilized, but they disputed this. We got the 40-percent (figure) from a statistical survey. For example, the number of prepaid cards sold and the assumption that most prepaid cards are exhausted on texting," he said.

Rio added that they remained dependent on the cellular phone firms themselves for data on text message and voice traffic as the NTC had no monitoring equipment of its own.

"This (statistical survey) is our only basis. We have no actual measurement. We have no way of independently proving our claim. We're still dependent on their system so they can always dispute this," he said.

He blamed the NTC's lack of funds for this inadequacy. In an earlier interview, he said the regulatory agency needed at least P2.1 billion to equip NTC's nationwide network with monitoring equipment.

"We've gotten offers from Germany, Canada, France and the (United States) for soft loans on monitoring equipment. They've offered equipment-no outright grants. We'd still have to spend. All these have to be cleared by Congress," he said.

The NTC has a pending request with the Office of the President for an extra P200-million budget. Rio said they would use this amount, if granted, for the first leg of their monitoring equipment project.

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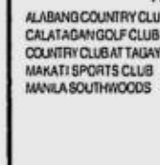

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17. PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80,000.00	-
18. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	-	200,000.00
19. ROCKWELL	550,000.00	-
20. RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	-	250,000.00
21. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	1,650,000.00	-
22. SUBIC YATCH CLUB	750,000.00 a/w	-
23. SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	130,000.00	90,000.00
24. SHERWOOD HILLS "C"	-	250,000.00
25. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	-	750,000.00
26. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	-	650,000.00
27. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	175,000.00	-
28. VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	200,000.00
29. VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC. (CEBU)	Please call	-
30. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	7,000,000.00	6,400,000.00
31. THE COUNTRY CLUB	4,000,000.00	-
34. OTHERS	Please call	

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	P30,000.00	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	60,000.00
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	free rental	TAGAYTAY GOLF CLUB	50,000.00
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	30,000.00	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	15,000.00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	20,000.00	WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	80,000.00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000.00	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB	20,000.00
		OTHERS	Please call

AMELIA B. MAGAT
Asst. Treas / Comptroller
or call
ROMEO M. RIBAÑO / SHIONEL PIGA / REYNALDO CUEVAS
Ground Floor, Tuscan Building, 114 Herrera Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tels: 818-6991 • 818-6936 • 818-6948 Fax: 818-5453
E-mail address: fvdrhi@info.com.ph

Equitable PCI plans equity hike

ELENA R. TORRIJOS

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's fourth biggest lender, plans to raise as much as P5 billion in tier 2 capital through a public offering in the first quarter of this year, a source familiar with the transaction said.

The source noted that if the issue pushed through, it would be the first of its kind by a universal or commercial bank.

"There has not been any public borrowing by a universal bank in the lines of subordinated debt or even a regular bond issue," the source said.

Equitable PCI was also waiting for the BSP's guidelines on how tier 2 capital could be raised via public offering rather than a private placement.

The proceeds of the tier 2 capital is seen to give more liquidity to Equitable PCI Bank, which early last year borrowed P30 billion from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to plug massive withdrawals after its former chair was dragged into the impeachment of ousted President Estrada.

After undertaking an aggressive deposit-recovery program, Equitable was able to fully wipe out its debt from the BSP last month.

Earlier, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. raised $100 million in tier 2 capital through a private placement with a Singapore-based fund.

Other banks also considering an increase in capital through the tier 2 scheme included Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and United Coconut Planters Bank.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, January 11, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.8	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58	58	58	1,104,900
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	20
Citystate Savings Bank	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	25	25.5	24.75	24.75	495,000
First E-Bank Corp. 1	.28 1.3	1.28	1.3		50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	197	197	193	195	21,500
Philippine National Bank	64	64	64	64	3,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	600
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.75	16	15.5	16	26,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	430,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1320	1320	1320	1320	1,010
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1050	1030	1050	10,340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp	24	24	24	24	1,100
Diversified Fin. Network	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	110,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	680	670	680	27,480
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	20,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	432.5	435	430	432.5	35,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	50,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	15,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.75	9,800
Manila Electric Co. B	30	31	30	30.5	2,715,700
Petron Corp.	1.52	1.62	1.52	1.56	12,711,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.7	3,699,000
Keppel Phils. Marine, Inc	0.25	0.3	0.25	0.3	920,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2	2	2	2	42,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	131,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	83,100
La Tondena Distillers,Inc	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	200
RFM Corp.	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.3	1,432,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44	44	44	44	92,700
San Miguel Corp. B	54.5	55	53.5	53.5	210,100
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.7	0.7	0.64	0.64	20,000
Ayala Corp.	4.9	5.1	4.9	5	12,566,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.4	3,534,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	130,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	30,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.56	4,300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	760,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.185	0.165	0.18	1,910,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.88	0.88	390,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	743,600
Ionics Inc.	6.8	7.2	6.8	7.2	119,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	177,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.7	1,100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.3	7,590,000
Music Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.235	0.25	3,420,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	130,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Federal Chemicals Inc.	6	6	6	6	3,000
Pryce Corp.	0.095	0.095	0.09	0.09	1,690,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	5,700,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	7	7	7	7	10,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	600,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.43	0.35	0.36	660,000
Manila Jockey Club	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	19,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	31,500
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	70,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	100
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	35,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Prel) Series V	10.25	10.25	10	10	3,500
PLDT (10% Prel) Series W	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10	10	3,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	6,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.5	
		13,688,000			
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,780,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.35	0.36	5,990,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.9	1.96	1.88	1.88	6,595,000
SM Development Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	2,526,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.022	0.023	0.021	0.021	5,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	550,000
OIL					
Sinophil Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,148,570	94,099,190.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	155,078,470	268,978,045.00
PRO	30,691,000	106,897,260.00
Mining	7,750,000	315,500.00
OIL	150,000	15,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	195,818,040	470,305,495.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	496.96	UP 0.69
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,614.16	UP 3.57
PRO	534.76	UP 0.04
Mining	1,031.62	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.99	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	698.74	UP 2.13
Composite	1,191.60	UP 2.12

NO. OF ADVANCES: 29; NO. OF DECLINES: 20; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 90; NO. OF TRADES: 2,269

CURRENCIES

Jan. 11, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.121453	1.000000	51.4140
Japan	Yen	0.008461	0.007545	0.3879
United Kingdom	Pound	1.615005	1.440100	74.0413
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143810	0.128235	6.5931
Switzerland	Franc	0.675248	0.602119	30.9573
Canada	Dollar	0.701785	0.625782	32.1740
Singapore	Dollar	0.608328	0.542446	27.8893
Australia	Dollar	0.586535	0.523013	26.8902
Bahrain	Dinar	2.974836	2.652661	136.3839
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299047	0.266660	13.7101
Brunei	Dollar	0.605112	0.539578	27.7419
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025447	0.022691	1.1666
UAE	Dirham	0.305407	0.272331	14.0016
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000768	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.891700	45.8459
Brazil	Real	0.469227	0.418410	21.5121
Denmark	Kroner	0.134534	0.119964	6.1678
India	Rupee	0.023219	0.020704	1.0645
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.295119	0.263158	13.5300
Mexico	New Peso	0.120977	0.107875	5.5463
New Zealand	Dollar	0.478231	0.426439	21.9249
Norway	Kroner	0.125542	0.0111946	0.5756
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018737	0.016708	0.8590
South Africa	Rand	0.097688	0.087108	4.4786
Sweden	Kroner	0.109104	0.097288	5.0020
Syria	Pound	0.021946	0.019569	1.0061
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032106	0.028629	1.4719
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001476	0.001316	0.0677

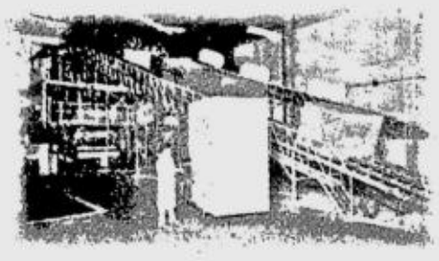
There's Only One Reason Why We Worked Towards This ISO 9001:2000 Certification:

YOUR GREATER SATISFACTION.

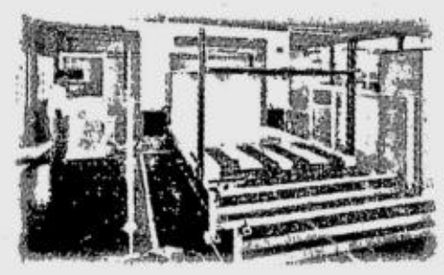
Last Saturday, Uratex Philippines, Inc. Muntinlupa factory was formally awarded a Certificate of Registration to ISO 9001: 2000 which it earned last November12, 2001.

Uratex Muntinlupa is the 6th factory in the RGC Group to be conferred an ISO certification following Roberts Automotive, producer of radiators, leaf springs and stamped parts, Uratex Philippines San Pedro, producer of foam for the automotive OEM industry, Inoac Philippines Corp., fabricators of specialty foam, and RGC Textile, producer of fabric for the automotive OEM industry. It is the first to be certified under the Year-2000 revision of the ISO9000 series standards.

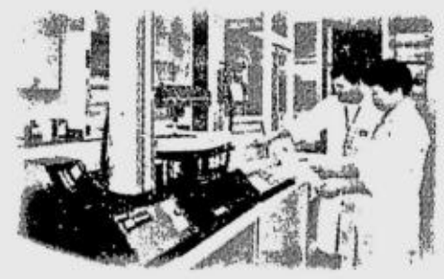
Halfway through the ISO project, the guidelines for the Revision 2000 of the ISO 9000 series were released. Uratex Muntinlupa management and staff shifted to the new standard because they strongly believed that the Year-2000 revision's increased focus on customer satisfaction, continuous improvement and management responsibility is more aligned to the management principles of the RGC Group especially as regards customer focus. Afterall, the only reason why we worked towards this certification is YOUR GREATER SATISFACTION.



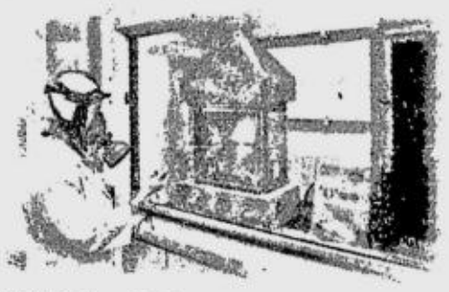
Foaming Process using Vertifoam Technology



Precision Cutting with Bammer CNC Machine



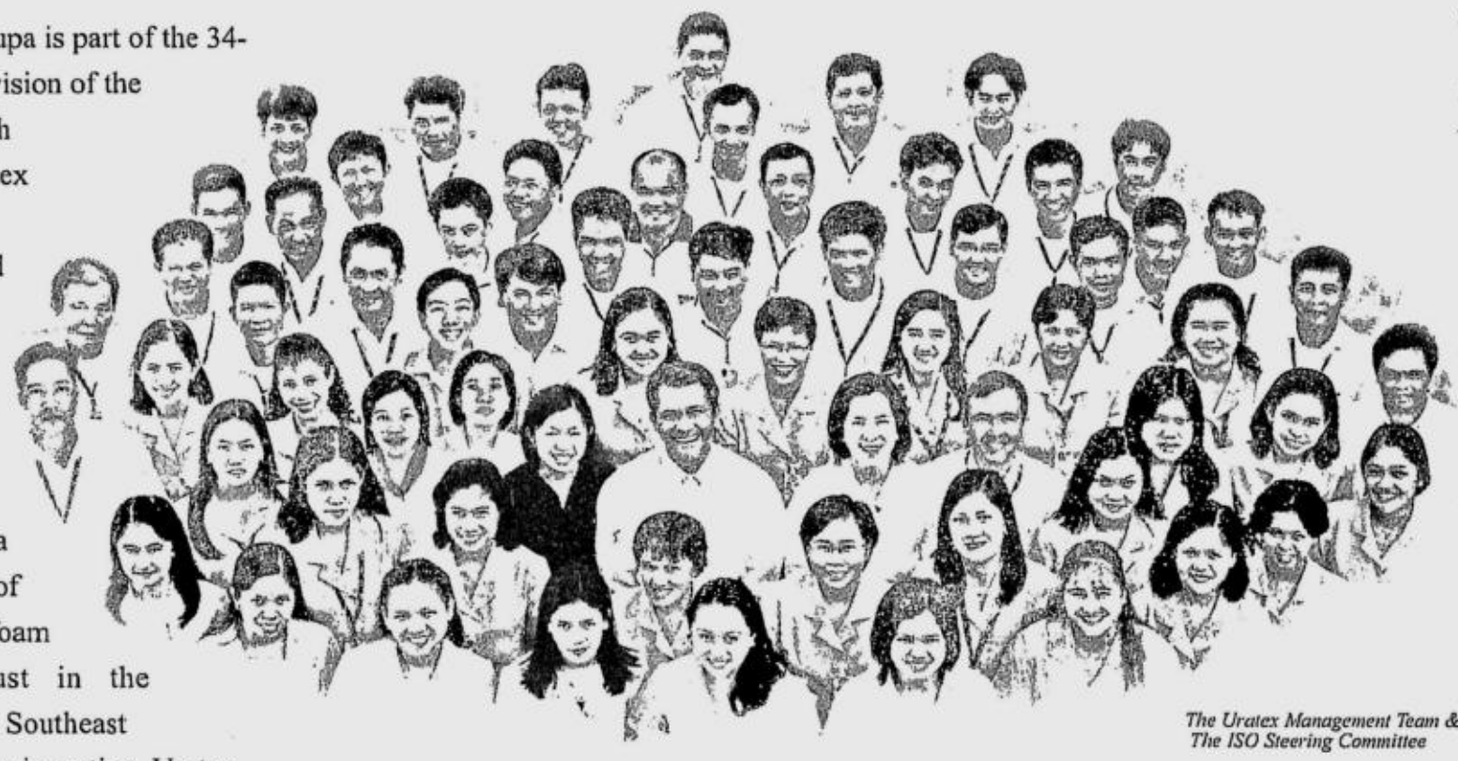
Research and Development Laboratory



FMVSS 302 Flammability Test

RGC Textile Awarded ISO Certification last April 12, 2001

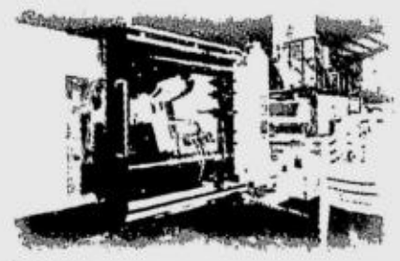
Uratex Muntinlupa is part of the 34-year old Foam Division of the RGC Group, which manufactures Uratex Foam, the most trusted foam brand in the country.



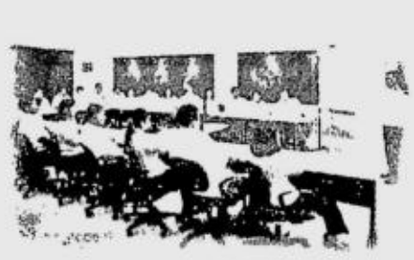
The Uratex Management Team & The ISO Steering Committee

Together with its sister foam factories, Uratex Muntinlupa is at the forefront of the polyurethane foam industry, not just in the Philippines, but in Southeast Asia as well. From inception, Uratex Muntinlupa was envisioned to cater to the more stringent industrial applications of the automotive, electronics, export furniture and export footwear industries. Since it opened its doors in 1988, it has been the seat of development of specialty foams such as flame retardant foam to Federal Motor Vehicle FMVSS302, California CA117 and British BS5852 standards; yellowing-retarded foams, high-resilience foams, high-load-bearing foams and visco-elastic foams.

ISO 9001:2000 is our tool for quality assurance and operational efficiency, both of which translate to strengthened customer confidence, access to markets and reduced operating costs. But it is not all that we are doing towards YOUR GREATER SATISFACTION. Last May 2000, the RGC Group has embarked on a 3-year campaign towards Excellent Customer Service. Last April 2000, a new laboratory facility was inaugurated with increased capability for foam development and testing. The new laboratory facility is capable of testing to FMVSS 302 and CA117 flammability standards. Also last year, the advanced manufacturing facility in Plaridel, Bulacan became operational (see article below) achieving unmatched foam quality and optimum economics.



Monoblock Chair Production



Corporate Training Center

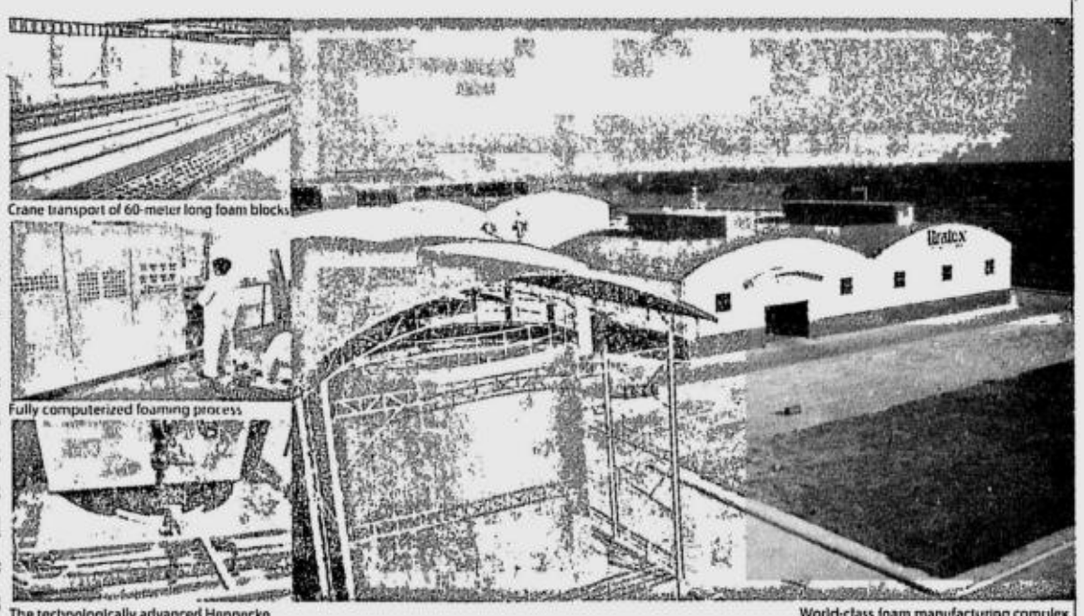
Corporate Calibration Center

Uratex Muntinlupa at South Superhighway

Besides Quality, We also take care of Technology.

The new plant facility in Plaridel, Bulacan

The new Plaridel plant facility became operational last year producing foam with superior cell structure and plush feel, and improved comfort and support factors. The improved foam quality is mainly due to the state-of-the-art Multiflex Foaming Machine made by Hennecke of Germany, the global market leader in foaming machines. Among other factors, the development of the Multiflex Foaming Machine led to Hennecke being awarded as one of the "Top 100 medium-sized Innovative companies in Germany" of the year 2000. With the new machine, the RGC Foam Group will also be able to expand its manufacturing programme to include highly technical foam grades conforming to the strict standards of the automotive and electronics industries. Besides housing the latest foaming machine technology in the world, the Plaridel plant facility is also capable of handling 60-meter long foam blocks through a complex transport and cutting system.This enables the plant to comply with the highest standards in industrial laminates besides giving optimum economics and material yield.



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Ogami in dirty money scams–BSP

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas and the newly created Anti-Money Laundering Council have advised Tokyo that the group of self-styled Japanese cult leader Genta Ogami may be using his businesses in the Philippines to launder dirty money from Japan.

"We have told the Japanese authorities that we think this is money laundering," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who also heads the council, told reporters on Friday.

Buenaventura said Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista and other members of the anti-money laundering council would discuss the matter with Japanese officials during a regional meeting of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force in Japan this month.

Ogami, owner of G. Cosmos Philippines Inc., was reported to have been convicted of mail fraud in Japan.

Buenaventura said the anti-money laundering council believed Ogami was using his businesses to launder his earnings from the illegal sale of securities in the Philippines and Japan.

This, he suggested, could be the reason that he bought thrift bank Unitrust Development Bank.

Ogami, through G. Universal Co. Ltd. and Minamoto Saiken Kaishu Co., acquired the bank in October last year from Group Management Corp., a company controlled by former Philippine Stock Exchange president Jose Luis Yulo, former Rizal Rep. Emigdio Tanjuatco and businessman Ed del Fonso.

The change in ownership and internal disputes following the acquisition led to a P138-million bank run that forced Unitrust, which had about 18,000 depositors, to shut down its 12 branches on Jan. 4.

Ogami was originally not listed as Unitrust's owners, but after a series of management revamps, he surfaced and claimed control of the bank.

Prior to his acquisition of Unitrust, Ogami and his flagship firm, G. Cosmos, was being investigated by the SEC for allegedly violating the Philippines' Securities Regulation Code, particularly the provisions that prohibit the sale of securities not registered with the regulatory agency.

Through nationwide television and print ads, G. Cosmos had been promoting the salvation of the world through a supposed high-yielding instrument based on an aggressive advertising campaign of mail-order products sold in Japan.

Based on complaints filed with the SEC, G. Cosmos failed to deliver on promises that investors would receive 30 percent of profit as advertised to retirees, pensioners and businessmen who were assured of earning as much as P30,000 to P50,000 a month.

Buenavtura said the central bank was unable to stop the sale of Unitrust to Ogami's group because of its limited powers.

The BSP was criticized for failing to rescind the sale of Unitrust when it was apparent that the new owners could not get their act together. That would supposedly had prevented the bank's closure.

"We do not have the legal authority to nullify a consummated transfer of ownership. This is actually one of the amendments to the central bank act that we have been suggesting alongside the power to replace and disqualify officers and directors of any bank and to close a bank to protect the interest of the public," Buenaventura explained.

He stressed that the central bank had done to Unitrust what its powers allowed it to do, like suspending the thrift bank's license, its authority to accept foreign currency deposits, as well as granting new loans, and to stop running controversial advertisements in newspapers.

The BSP earlier told the new owners of Unitrust in a letter that the Monetary Board had yet to approve their acquisition of the bank. Pending this, they were prevented from recruiting new employees.

Unitrust had run ads in two major dailies in an aggressive campaign to recruit new personnel.

The BSP said in its letter that these paid ads gave the impression that Unitrust would go into businesses other than banking.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes had said Unitrust's recent ads suggested that the bank was planning to operate as a holding company.

NEWS BRIEFS

More jobs last year

THE GOVERNMENT was able to create more than twice the number of jobs it said it would generate last year, particularly in the agriculture sector, according to data from the Department of Agriculture.

Documents from the agriculture department showed that the agriculture sector was able to create 203,745 jobs from January to November last year.

"If job creation data from other government agencies also mandated to be involved in agricultural modernization were included, such as the Departments of Agrarian Reform, Environment and Natural Resource, and Science and Technology, and state universities and colleges, the number would easily break the 204,000 level," Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor told reporters Friday. *Christine A. Gaylican*

Lower power rates in Leyte

STARTING this month, consumers in Leyte and Samar will enjoy a 26-centavo-per-kilowatt-hour reduction in their electric bills, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez said last week.

"This is a direct result of the partial rehabilitation of National Power Corp.'s Tongonan 1 plant in Leyte," Perez said.

He added that rehabilitation work, which started in September, made the Tongonan geothermal plant more efficient. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

New Sun Life shares cleared

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the registration and sale of P200 million worth of additional shares of Sun Life of Canada Prosperity Bond Fund Inc.

The P200 million worth of securities consist of 200 million common shares with a par value of P1 each, representing the latest increase in the fund's authorized capital stock. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Maynilad skirts GFI loans

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. said it would no longer tap government-owned banks in securing P3 billion worth of bridge financing to service its maturing debts and operational costs.

Maynilad project finance director and First Philippine Holdings Inc. vice president for finance Francis Gilles Puno told the INQUIRER that the company was already set on finalizing $350 million worth of loans with its creditors abroad. *Christine A. Gaylican*

PNOC-EDC income up 24%

STATE-RUN PNOC Energy Development Corp. has reported that its net income grew 24 percent year-on-year to P807 million in 2001.

In a statement, PNOC-EDC said the increase was due to better steam production and, consequently, of power generation.

The company reported that last year's gross revenues reached P19.1 billion, 8 percent higher compared to P17.7 billion in 2000.

The earnings were accounted for by record sales of steam and power at 8,374 gigawatt-hours in 2001, a 12-percent increase from 7,463 gwh in 2000.

Also, PNOC-EDC's 2001 production displaced an equivalent of 14 million barrels of fuel oil imports. This volume meant total savings of $328 million at an average Dubai crude price of $23.40 a barrel. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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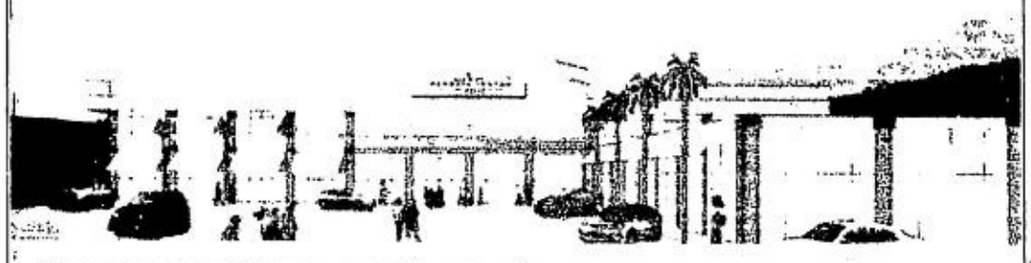

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6 groups offer to get rid of Landbank's bad assets

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

SIX foreign groups have expressed interest in the planned sale of as much as P20 billion worth of bad assets held by Land Bank of the Philippines.

In an interview, Landbank president Margarito Teves said on Friday that Cerberus Ltd., Lone Star Asia-Pacific Investment Ltd., Lehman Brothers, Deutsche Bank AG, JP Morgan Chase & Co. and Bank of America had sent various offers concerning Landbank's bad assets.

Some offered to serve as an advisor while others wanted to become Landbank's partner in the setting up of an asset management company, Teves said.

He said Cerberus, Lone Star and Lehman Brothers informed Landbank that they had as much as $1 billion that they could use to acquire the government financial institution's bad assets.

Lehman Brothers has reportedly pledged to invest $1 billion in the venture dubbed as the "Philippine Recovery Fund." The US investment bank has signed a memorandum of understanding to acquire a large chunk of the bad assets of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest bank.

Teves said Landbank had yet to thresh out government rules that could dampen the value of its bad loans and acquired properties.

"We anticipate we will not be as attractive (as Metrobank) because we are governed by certain rules on bidding. We have to see a way we can be exempted or find a way we can be still be an attractive partner," he explained.

Landbank posted a net income of P1.4 billion in the first 11 months of last year.

Teves estimated that the bank's full-year earnings should hit P1.5 billion.

Landbank's board was reported earlier to have allowed management to dispose of the bank's P40 billion in bad assets consisting of P30 billion in bad loans and P10 billion in acquired assets through the creation of an asset management company.

Landbank executive vice president Alfonso Cruz had said the bank was looking to sell P15 billion to P20 billion worth of bad assets through an outright sale or a joint venture.

Standard Insurance raises paid-in capital

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

LEADING motorcar insurer Standard Insurance Co. Inc. has raised its paid-in capital to P500 million from P360 million to cement its leadership in the domestic non-life insurance sector.

Standard Insurance said in a news statement that with its bigger capital, it would be able to maintain its position as the highest capitalized non-life insurer in the Philippines.

The company said its board approved the declaration of stock dividends worth P250 million out of its unrestricted retained earnings and additional paid-up capital in excess of par before the close of last year.

The stock dividend declaration, it said, was approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday last week.

Standard Insurance is one of the major players in the domestic non-life insurance industry, consistently ranking among the top three in terms of profitability over the past five years.

In 2000, the company posted net premiums of P776.5 million and a net income after tax of P97.8 million.

RP to seek debt relief for NSC

(From page B5)

Roxas said NSC's Philippine creditor-banks, which have a loan exposure of roughly P16 billion in NSC, were more keen on pursuing a debt writedown rather than go through an interim agreement with a leaseholder until a new investor emerges to take over NSC. He said Danaharta would still have some equity investments left in NSC after the writedown because NSC's assets were worth more than P20 billion.

Roxas is head of the evaluation committee which is currently reviewing proposals to lease-rehabilitate-operate NSC's Iligan facilities from Cathay Pacific Steel Co., Allengoal Steel Trading and Fabrication Corp., and Voest Alpine of Austria. The creditor-banks and Danaharta have representatives in the committee, which is in its final stages of evaluating the lease proposals.

Roxas said that while his committee was prepared to choose one of the interim lease agreements, he was now more inclined to go for a permanent solution specially if the committee would only be slapped with a legal suit for its choice of leaseholder.

The move is likely to be opposed by Allengoal, which has long opposed a writedown because it would favor one of the interested leaseholders of NSC, Capasco.

Capasco is owned by Benjamin Chua and John Ng who are close business allies of taipan Lucio Tan. Tan is the controlling shareholder of Philippine National Bank, which has the biggest share of NSC's debt among the firm's Philippine creditors. A takeover by creditors would give Capasco the upper hand in bidding for NSC's facilities.

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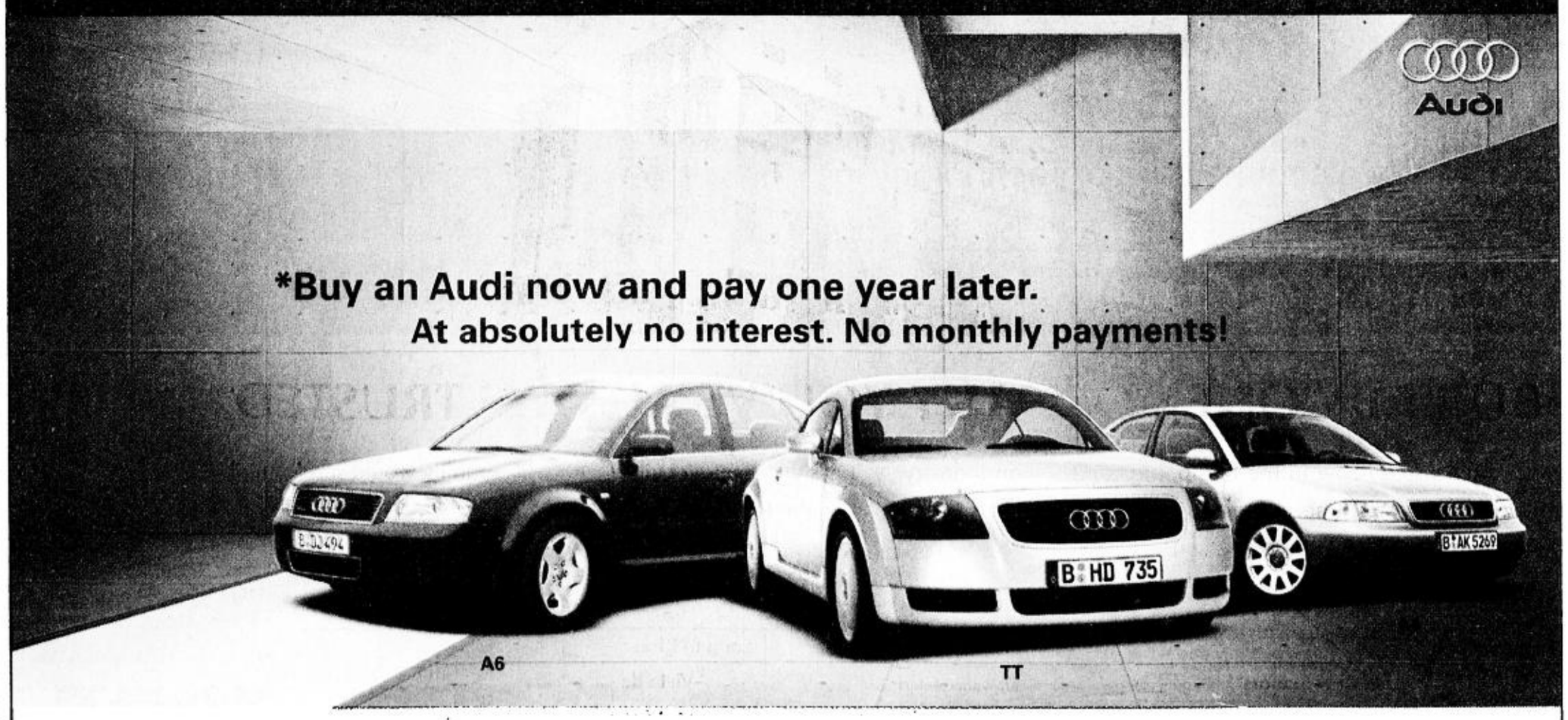

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BS Electrical / Instrument Engineering with minimum ten (10) years experience in Electrical / Instrumentation design. Candidates should have experience in design of loop drawings, interlock logic, substation layout, etc. Experience in Microstation and Intool is a must.

INSTRUMENT DESIGNERS
BS Electrical / Instrument Engineering with minimum ten (10) years experience in Electrical / Instrumentation design. Candidates should have experience in design of loop drawings, interlock logic, substation layout, etc. Experience in Microstation and Intool is a must.

PROCESS ENGINEERS
BS Chemical Engineering with minimum ten (10) years experience in polymer industry. Process Engineering support in monitoring plant performance, development and troubleshooting of Low Density Polyethylene, Polypropylene, LLDPE plants. Technical background and project experience is a must.

QA/QC ENGINEERS
BS Mechanical Engineering with minimum eight (8) years experience in project inspection, project management activities, inspection and supervision in large petrochemical / refinery / engineering consultancy organization is necessary. Certified ASNI-Level II NDT techniques and familiarity with relevant ASME, ANSI, ADI standards.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES
Bachelor's Degree in any discipline with minimum eight (8) years experience reporting to top management level. Candidates should have excellent communication skills, with outgoing personality. Must be a computer literate. Preference will be given to those with previous Gulf experience.

CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISORS
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LEGAL NOTICE

[illegible] the estate ofRuperta Verduz has been settled under an Affidavit of Settlement of Estate with Absolute Deed of sale under Doc. No. 18, Page No. 4, Book No. 44, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco of Pasay City
(PDI- Jan. 14, 21 & 28 ' 2002)

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

The Family of the late

DR. FLORENTINO B. OCAMPO

who passed away on January 11, 2002 at the age of 49.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Chapel 6, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Information please call La Funeraria Paz. Tel. No. 749-3806

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The family of the late

DANIEL VASQUEZ VENTANILLA, SR.

January 3, 1931 – January 7, 2002

who crossed over to eternal life at the age of 71

wishes to thank everyone who came to Tanay, Rizal, to visit him at his wake and all those who attended the Mass at the San Ildefonso Parish Church last January 11, 2002.

We also wish to extend our appreciation to all those who came to the Loyola Crematorium last January 11, 2002, to stay with the family and wait for his final remains.

His ashes are back at the place where he enjoyed the last 7 years of his life, at home in Tanay.

We thank you all for the flowers, the thoughts, your mere presence and most especially the prayers you offered **DANIEL, SR.**

May his soul forever rejoice with His Creator.

Mrs. Belen Cabrera Ventanilla
Tess, Dan, Paolo & Dijo Songco
Joji & Monching Torres
Danny Ventanilla
Len, Toto & Denise Camarista
Daniel Jr. & Joan Ventanilla

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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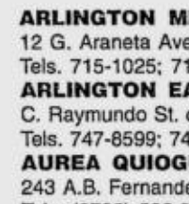

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Tacloban City

COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Province of Leyte is inviting all interested dealers and suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

TEN (10) UNITS MOBILE PALAY FLASH DRIER

Bid documents will be issued to pre-qualified bidders at the Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Tacloban City, starting **January 11, 2002.**

Sealed bids will be received by the Committee on Awards until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, **January 23, 2002** at the Briefing Room, 2nd Floor, Provincial Capitol Tacloban City. Public opening of bids will immediately follow. Bids submitted late will not be accepted.

The Province of Leyte reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, and to accept only the bid most advantageous to the provincial government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CATALINO B. PETILLA**
Acting Chairman

(PDI - Jan. 14, 16 & 18, 2002)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **WILLIAM NAQUITA y DUABE**, whose picture appears above, of Esmeralda Street, San Andres, Manila and Estina Extension, Surigao City, is the subject of a **WARRANT OF ARREST** issued by the Presiding Judge of Branch No. 17, MTC of Manila, in connection with the case of Falsification of Public Documents docketed as Criminal Case No. 337648 CR. **A REWARD** awaits anyone who can provide vital information leading to the arrest of the subject person, which information may be communicated to tel. no. (02) 890-3451 local 34. Any information will be treated with utmost confidentiality and privacy.

LEPANTO CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY
Lepanto Mine Division
Brgy. Paco, Mankayan, Benguet

Notice is hereby given to residents and concerned parties/groups in Mankayan, Benguet, regarding the holding of a public hearing for the proposed increase in gold-copper ore production of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company from the present 2,500 tonnes per day to 5,000 tonnes per day. The public hearing will be held at the Dangwa Hall of the Mankayan Municipal Hall on **February 9, 2002** at 10:00 a.m.

LEPANTO MANAGEMENT

(PDI - Jan. 14, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI
Municipality of Sitangkai
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The LGU of Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi has received a loan from ADB thru the DAR for the const. of rural infra projects. The LGU of Sitangkai, thru the Local Chief Executive invites contractors classified by and registered with Inter-Agency Committee on Registration and Classification of contractors (ICRC) as Mediur Class "A" to apply for pre-qualification to submit bid for the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LENGTH	LOCATION
• Concreting of Talisay-Pamalikan Farm to Market Road	3.35 kms.	Talisay, Sibutu, Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi

BUDGET COST: Php 12,289,965.96

The contractor shall furnish the necessary materials, labor and equipment needed to complete the project.

That the unskilled labor portion required for the project must be secured in from the available manpower of the community where the project be implemented.

The pre-qualification and bid documents are available for issuance to prospective bidders at the BAC Secretariat, MPDC Office of Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi upon presentation of Letter of Intent and original copies of contractor's License and Registration and payment of non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (Php 3,500.00) PESOS ONLY as bidders fee.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statement and Price Bid Proposals for the project in a sealed envelope shall be submitted to the PBAC Secretariat not later than **February 25, 2002** at Sibutu Municipal Hall, Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi.

All participating contractors shall be notified of the results of the evaluation of their Pre-C's, the date and time of the opening of the bids. Pre-qualified contractors, shall submit the amount not less than 5% bid securities of their total bid price during the opening of the sealed bids, while disqualified contractors will receive back their sealed proposals.

All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bid bonds, performance bonds, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the implementing Rules and Regulation of PD 1594, as amended.

The Local Government of Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi, reserve the rights to reject any or all bid proposal, waive any required formally or defect contained therein and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal evaluated is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **TIBLAN C. AHAJA**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI - Jan. 14, 2002)

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Johnson Wax Professional to acquire DiverseyLever

JOHNSON Wax Professional announced on Nov. 20 that it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire DiverseyLever, the Unilever company's institutional and industrial cleaning business. The acquisition which is subject to regulatory approval, is expected to be completed in early 2002.

The consolidation of Johnson Wax Professional and DiverseyLever is the largest ever in the institutional and industrial (I & I) market. To complete the deal, Johnson Wax Professional, a privately-held company, will compensate Unilever with a combination of cash and a note and a one-third interest in the combined company. Unilever has placed a valuation of approximately $1.6 billion on the transaction. Additionally, the agreement provides for Unilever's full exit from the combined business after five years.

The combined company will be led by a management committee comprised of Johnson Wax Professional's chair, S. Curtis Johnson and its president and chief executive officer, Gregory E. Lawton. Other members of the management committee will be JoAnne Brandes, chief administrative officer and general counsel, Michael J. Bailey, chief financial officer, both current Johnson Wax Professional officers and Cetin Yuceulug. DiverseyLever's current president, who will serve as a special advisor during the transition to new ownership and will retire from Unilever service in July 2002. The company's headquarters will remain in Racine, Wisconsin.

"We are extremely excited about the long-term strategic benefits from this transaction," Lawton said. "Combining our strengths with those of DiverseyLever will result in a company that has the size, strength and geographic reach to compete anywhere in the world with anyone in the industry. Our complementary product platforms – Johnson Wax Professional's expertise in housekeeping and floor care, and DiverseyLever's strengths in warewashing, laundry and food processing and sanitation – will significantly enhance our offering."

Johnson said, "This is indeed a historic occasion for Johnson Wax Professional. While this transaction represents by far the largest investment we've ever made, it truly is an investment in our future, one that will position us for long-term growth and profitability.

"An important factor for us is that our companies share similar values and cultures, emphasizing the goodwill of our people," he said. "Our common commitment to customers and to employees, defined by the principles each company has established and practiced over the years, will be the foundation for a successful integration.

Neil FitzGerald, chair of Unilever P/C, said, "This is an excellent strategic move for Unilever and one that is fully in line with our Path to Growth strategy, a key element of which is to focus resources – money, people, innovation – on a reduced number of core consumer brands. We are delighted the Johnson Wax Professional and DiverseyLever businesses are coming together. They complement each other's strengths extremely well."

DiverseyLever is among the world's leading providers of cleaning products, equipment and services for the I & I market, with about 11,000 employees serving customers in more than 60 countries. Its strongest geographic positions are in Europe, North America and Latin America. Its sales for the 12 months to June 2001 were $1.5 billion.

Johnson Wax Professional has about 3,800 employees, and is also a world leader in the I&I marketplace. Together with its Racine-based Johnson Polymer subsidiary and several other global subsidiaries, it brings its products and services to more than 50 countries, with a strong presence in North America and Japan.

RCBC ACQUIRES SYSTEMS FOR HR

RCBC Unibank and Savings Bank recently acquired Navigator Systems' Human Resources Information (HRIS) Payroll System for the bank's faster and efficient service of its Human Resources Management Group. The HRIS Payroll System will fully integrate the time, attendance, human resource and payroll of both RCBC Unibanks and RCBC Savings Banks into a common system. Microsoft provided the platform for the HRIS system. RCBC is the first in the banking industry to acquire such system solution. In photo are (from left) Lorna Evidente, head of the RCBC Information Technology Group; Richard Francis, managing director of Microsoft Philippines; Valentin Araneta, president and chief operating officer of RCBC; Bettina Quimson-Del Rosario, president of Navigator Systems; and lawyer Jerome Sarte, head of RCBC Unibank and Savings Bank Human Resources Management Group.

PHILIPS LIGHTFRAME AT GAMEWORLD 2001 CEBU

Hundreds of computer enthusiasts flocked to the Activity Center of Ayala Center Cebu for GameWorld 2001, the biggest inter-computer game tournament. The tournament, which included PC games such as Counter Strike and Quake III, were played on Philips LightFrame monitors, the official monitor provider of GameWorld 2001. Shown in photo is Ann Soriano, Product Marketing Manager for Philips Consumer Electronics, welcoming participants at the Cebu tournament.

BROADBAND SIGNS UP WITH QUADRILLION GROUP

The country's premier broadband service provider Broadband Philippines has forged a memorandum of agreement with Quadrillion Group of Companies to transform 139 corporate center into a broadband-ready building. At the contract signing were (from left, front row) Broadband executive vice president Ben Sevilla, Broadband chair and chief executive officer Joey de Venecia, Quadrillion president Elsie Chua, Quadrillion corporate secretary David Chua and Quadrillion director Suren Dasweni. At the back were Broadband site selection head Renor Baluga, Percy Lukban and Carmina Meneses of Quadrillion.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL 'MEDICAL MISSION 2001'

Rotary International District 3830 consisting of Rotary Clubs in Makati, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros and Palawan recently launched 'Medical Mission 2001' at the Palanan Gym in Makati. Recipients of the first mission were over 500 families in Palanan, Makati in need of free medical and dental services. Photo shows (standing from left) Governor Ernie Salas, SDG General Boy Abadia, DDG Dr. Perry Noble and Task Force chair Junjun Abcede. In the foreground are two of over 30 medical volunteers, Dr. Bernadette Arjonillo and Dr. Salazar of St. Lukes Hospital. The medical mission was participated in by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Department of Health, Barangay Palanan and St. Joseph the

EXECUTIVE OPTICAL REACHES COUNTRYSIDE, OPENS BRANCH IN NAGA

Executive Optical (EO), one of the country's leading optical shop chains, bring safe, reliable and guaranteed eyecare service to the people of Naga City and its nearby towns as it opens its 19th branch on the ground floor of NCC Central Mall Naga. EO's Naga branch offers popular, fashionable eye care products such as sunglasses, frames contact lens, reading glasses, solutions and accessories. There are also qualified optometrists ready to render excellent eyecare service such as computerized eye check-up and eye refraction to its clients. Executive Optical has over 22 branches that are conveniently located in leading malls nationwide. More branches are slated to open as proof of their excellent eye care service to Filipinos since 1967. Shown in the photo is Dr. Angel Macalintal, Executive Optical branch manager, with her team.

Powerhomes-AMA teamup

THE REAL estate network firm Powerhomes Unlimited Corp. and AMA Education System (AMAES), the largest and premier provider of ITC-based education in the country, have entered into an agreement of cooperation in furtherance of their common vision of making the largest number of Filipinos learn skills in the Information Technology and thereby gain competitive edge in the current trends of global commerce.

The contract signing was held last Nov. 22 at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City. It was attended by no less than the Power Homes Unlimited Corp.'s new management represented by its president, Dr. Raul Bolaños, together with the training director, Ricky Bakunawa, corporate treasurer, Pastor Rommel Frane and corporate communications officer Benjamin Lagman. The AMA Educational System was represented by AMAES executive vice president Manuel F. Abad, senior vice president for global educational services Arnel Hibo, SVP for international operations Jaime Barbosa, and the SVP and chief operating officer for franchise operations Charles Sullivan. PowerHome's directors, the core group, shareholders, network leaders and several friends from the media witnessed this historic occasion.

As the leader in the network marketing industry in the Philippines today with more than 70,000 satisfied members in just less than a year, Power Homes Unlimited Corp., as ever is committed to its legal mandate of facilitating home ownership for our countrymen and providing them with the opportunity to improve their lives. Apart from the opportunity to acquire the house and lot of their own the easy way, members will also be provided with emergency health care coverage through MedServ ER5000, business materials including different quality business presentation VCDs, classroom training modules and PH website and most importantly, Power Homes resolutely believes that in this business, knowledge is the key to success—that is why the company intensifies its drive to upgrade and make its Business Training Packages (BTP) globally competitive and consistently responsive to the demands of the fast-paces network marketing industry.

PowerHomes marked its 1st anniversary last Oct. 17 and installed a new management by the rules of corporate succession last Nov. 9. The new management offers its members nothing but only the best. With renewed vigor it now endeavors to deliver the package of services on a larger scale both nationwide and offshore. The company is now in full swing to deliver world-class Computer Literacy Development Program to thousands of its members especially those who cannot avail of it at the company's computer training center in Ortigas, hence, alliance with the largest and premier provider of ITC-based education in the country, AMA Educational System.

Power Homes believes in AMA's legacy in pioneering globally recognized computer education and currently holds the distinction of being the only Philippine educational institution to have been accepted in the circle of world-renowned IT institutions.

As Dr. Raul Bolaños, the new president of Power Homes Unlimited Corp. has aptly said, "We are now shifting gear from overdue promises to solid and prompt action in terms of the delivery of our services in a wider scale. Thus, our partnership with AMAES will surely strengthen and attune business center owners nationwide and offshore to the intricacies of e-commerce in the end of molding them to become highly competitive and dynamic leaders in network marketing. We care for our members as always, and this is just the beginning of a powerful partnership."

IFC-FAI INK US$22 M LOAN

The International Finance Corp. (IFC), the private investment arm of the World Bank, recently signed a US$22 million loan agreement with Filinvest Alabang Inc. (FAI) to finance Northgate CyberZone, FAI's 18.7 hectare Information Technology Park in Alabang. This project is IFC's first investment in an I.T. park. Northgate CyberZone was accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) as a special economic zone in July 1999. It is part of the 244-hectare Filinvest Corporate City development which is an emerging satellite city in southern Metro Manila. Northgate CyberZone has been operational since December 2000 with two completed four-storey I.T. buildings and a fully functioning Network Operations Center.

Causeway Resto now serving Libis diners

WITH the recent opening of its third restaurant in Libis, the management of Causeway Seafood Restaurant anticipates a brighter year ahead with a growing number of corporate yuppies as well as Quezon City and Pasig residents patronizing Causeway-Libis. Strategically located along Acropolis Street, Causeway Restaurant – Libis is an elegantly designed 100-plus seaterr restaurant that serves a variety of best-tasting and affordable Chinese cuisine.

"We are very much confident about our food, and we highly invest on our people," beams 28 year-old Eric Wong, managing director of Causeway – Libis, when asked why he chose Libis to be the site of the newest Causeway Restaurant. "Following the success of our Banawe and Malate outlets, Causeway – Libis is now ready to serve eclectic Chinese dishes at prices comparably lower than other Chinese restaurants," he adds.

Carousel Productions officer and former beauty queen Peachy Veneracion with other politician and media guests can readily attest to Wong's claim that Causeway's food offerings are simply superb. During the formal inauguration of Causeway-Libis, they were given a sample of Causeway's authentic Chinese dishes prepared by Causeway chief Cook Li Yan Tat, a seasoned chef from Hong Hong. Guests enjoyed generous servings of fried crab HK style, Peking Duck Roast served in two ways, steamed King Fish, sliced squid with chicken and celery and yummy dimsums Crab Roe Siomai, sesame prawn roll and kutchay dumpling.

Veneracion is a frequent customer of Causeway Restaurant. She even personally chose Causeway to sponsor the previously held Ms. Earth competition and the candidates were delighted with Causeway's food during their pre-pageant visit at Causeway Adriatico in Malate.

Quezon City Representative Reynaldo Calalay and Councilor Bingbong Crisologo shared Causeway's optimism for the Libis market. In his toast for Causeway during the launch, Crisologo remarked that the opening of another Causeway Restaurant is a tall assurance for investors that "Quezon City is a good place to do business." Rep. Calalay is also a frequent visitor of Causeway at Banawe corner del Monte Avenue in Quezon City.

Causeway was named after Causeway Bay, a famous tourist destination in Hong Kong known for its shopping centers and chain restaurants. Wong and his team carried the name Causeway to give the dining public a hint of their serious commitment in bringing authentic Chinese cuisine to the Filipinos and heir fellow Chinese in the country.

Causeway is also popular for its lobster, crabs, shrimps and exotic fishes which are cooked according to the customers preference. It also serves noodles, congee, rice toppings and other delectable menu.

The first Causeway Restaurant opened at Banawe corner del Monte Avenue in 1999 with a start-up capital of P20 million. Every year, Causeway opens a new branch at strategic places in the metropolis. This year sees Causeway branching out at the busy Congressional Road.

Causeway – Libis also caters to corporate functions and family gatherings. The restaurant also offers affordable set menu packages good up to 12 persons. For inquiries and reservations, call 638-9374 up to 75.

US economy steadying –Greenspan

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan said Friday that the US economy was showing tentative signs of recovery from the Sept. 11 attacks but remained at risk.

"There are sound reasons for concluding that the long-run picture remains bright and even recent signals about the current course of the economy have turned from unremittingly negative through the late fall of last year to a far more mixed set of signals recently," he said.

"But I would emphasize that we continue to face significant risks in the near term."

Greenspan's cautious tone raised the prospect of a further interest rate cut when Federal Reserve policymakers meet on Jan. 30.

Last year, they lowered rates 11 times, bringing the target for the federal funds rate at which commercial banks borrow from each other to 1.75 percent from 6.50 percent.

In response to the speech, Wall Street fell. The blue-chip Dow Jones index fell 80.33 points to close at 9,987.53.

"Despite a number of encouraging signs of stabilization, it is still premature to conclude that the forces restraining economic activity here and abroad have abated enough to allow a steady recovery to take hold," Greenspan said.

Consumer demand, accounting for two-thirds of US economic activity, would be critical, he said.

Tentative signs of resilience among consumers, the need to restock depleted inventories and lower energy prices were likely to support economic activity, Greenspan said.

But the biggest economic risk lay in the labor market.

"The unemployment rate may well continue to rise for a time, and job losses can be expected to put something of a damper on consumer spending," he said.

The unemployment rate rose to 5.8 percent in December from 5.6 percent the previous month.

The entire outlook was clouded by the risk of a further terrorist attack in the United States. *AFP*

Japan aims for 1.5% GDP growth by 2004

TOKYO—Japan has aimed to achieve a 1.5-percent economic growth in 2004 and beyond, a business daily said Saturday.

The Cabinet of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is expected to approve the target, to be included in an interim report by the government's Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy later in the month, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

The council argued Japan's economy would recover, thanks to deregulation and structural reforms and hoped Tokyo would halt deflationary pressures over the next few years, the daily said.

The government has forecast Japan's economy will fall by 1.0 percent in the current fiscal year to March 2002 and zero economic growth in the next fiscal year to March 2003.

Japan's Economic Minister Heizo Takenaka has said the economy might contract through March 2003 due to weak domestic productivity and a global economic slump. *AFP*

No talks on Argentine loan, says IMF chief

WASHINGTON—International Monetary Fund managing director Anne Krueger has ruled out entering into loan talks with Argentina until the country presents a coherent economic plan.

"Until there is a fairly comprehensive program that gives promise for the medium run I do not think that we can enter into negotiations," the International Monetary Fund boss said in a telephone conference.

"It is too soon for that," she said.

Krueger said an IMF technical team would travel to Argentina Monday to provide advice.

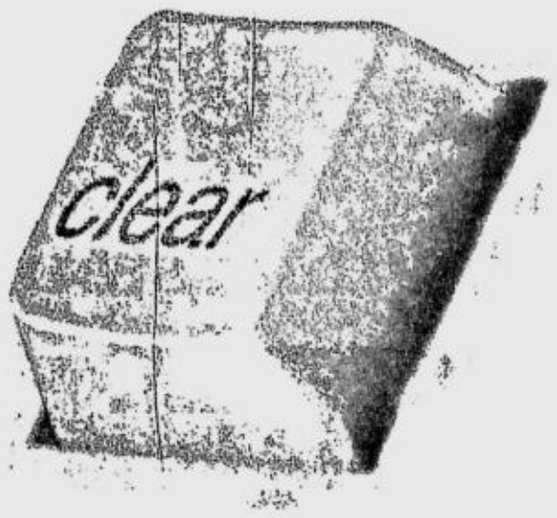
She urged Argentina to move as quickly away from its new dual currency rate system, under which it allowed the peso to float but fixed a dollar rate of P1.40 for some international transactions.

"We are not making any recommendations to do anything today or immediately," Krueger said.

But "in the medium term or the longer term, we do not believe that a dual exchange rate system is sustainable," she said, adding that it required controls inconsistent with healthy economic growth.

She recommended Buenos Aires "to basically unify the exchange rates as soon as possible."

"We hope the way that the authorities implement the regime is consistent with a feasible and doable time pattern to remove it," the IMF boss said. *AFP*



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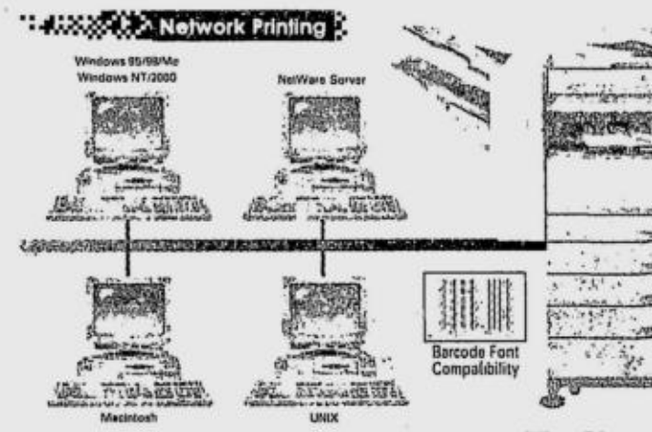

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SHARP CORPORATION OSAKA, JAPAN

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Ford to cut 35,000 jobs

DEARBORN, Michigan—Apologizing to employees losing their jobs, Ford Motor Co. chair William Clay Ford Jr. laid out a restructuring plan on Friday that would cut 35,000 positions, or 10 percent of the company's workforce, close five plants and eliminate four models.

"These steps build upon what we've already done. It's a comprehensive plan, but it's not a magic wand," Ford said. He called the moves "painful, but necessary" to return the world's second biggest automaker to profitability.

"We strayed from what got us to the top of the mountain, and it cost us greatly," he said. *Reuters*

Bank of East Asia cuts HK jobs

HONG KONG—The Bank of East Asia, one of Hong Kong's largest banks, has announced that it has laid off around 200 workers, or 5.4 percent of its workforce in Hong Kong.

The bank's executive director and deputy chief executive, Kay-Cheung Chan, told reporters that the layoffs were due to a tougher operating environment and duplications of jobs and branches following its acquisition of two other banks. *AP*

Microsoft settlement junked

WASHINGTON—A judge Friday rejected a proposal by Microsoft to donate $1 billion worth of software and other technology to needy US schools to settle suits charging it overcharged millions of people.

US District Judge Frederick Motz in Baltimore, Maryland, said the proposed class-action settlement would not guarantee adequate funding for a proposed foundation, and that it posed questions of "anti-competitive effects."

Microsoft had offered $1 billion worth of software and support, including a $400-million donation to an e-learning foundation, as part of a deal to settle more than 100 suits around the United States. *AFP*

US metros to lose 1.6M jobs

WASHINGTON—US urban areas will lose some 1.64 million jobs in 2002 due to the Sept. 11 attacks, especially those dependent on tourism, according to a study released Friday.

Las Vegas will be the hardest hit in terms of percentages, with nearly 5 percent fewer jobs this year than it would have had before the deadly suicide strikes, according to research conducted by the Milken Institute.

"With its large gambling industry and related infrastructure primarily accessible by air, Las Vegas is the single most vulnerable metropolitan economy," researchers found.

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and New York round out the top three job losers by percentage, reflecting expected losses in the tourism industry. *AFP*

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(As of December 14, 2001)

ASSETS	AMOUNT
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	P 622,085,539
Due from Other Banks	2,568,527,206
Trading Account Securities -net	530,797,164
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments -net	544,708,221
Loans, Discounts & Advances-net	2,264,126,988
Equity Investments	5,000,100
Bank Premises, Furniture Fixtures & Equipment-net	35,538,468
Real and Other Properties Owned/Acquired	66,742,000
Other Assets	176,756,697
TOTAL ASSETS	**P6,814,282,383**
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 388,666,917
Time Deposits	2,861,754,449
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	1,210,323
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	229,345
Bills Payable	520,838,906
Other Liabilities	482,421,448
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**P 4,255,121,388**
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 1,850,000,000
Capital Stock Deposit	315,000,000
Surplus	392,388,806
Other Capital Accounts	1,772,189
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**2,559,160,995**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**P 6,814,282,383**
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	P 12,031,177,471
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	12,340,097,271
Items Held for Safekeeping/Collaterals	4,978,121,975
Items Held In Trust	179,979,510
Other Contingent Accounts	1,639,960,330
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	**P 31,169,336,557**

OTHER INFORMATION*
Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

Prescribed Ratio of Compliance / Actual Compliance	6% for Small Enterprise 6.4863%	2% for Medium Enterprise 3.8696%
Amount of Non-Performing Loans		P –
Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		0.00%
Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		P 66,696,000
General provision for loan losses		P 66,466,979
Specific provision for loan losses		P 16,674,000
Return on Equity (ROE) - adjusted for provision **		2.57%
Amount of DOSRI loans/advances		P 46,908,690
Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		1.68%
Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans/Advances		P –
Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio		–

*Amended to conform with Circular No.208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to all Banks dated November 29,1999.
**Adjusted for one-time set-up of a provision.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI)S.S

We, Vicente B. Castillo and Agnes B. Santos of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) VICENTE B. CASTILLO
President

(Sgd.) AGNES B. SANTOS
Financial Controller

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 8th day of January 2002 affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 04170688, issued at Makati City on February 23, 2001 and Residence Certificate No.12010197, issued at Pasig City on February 28, 2001.

Doc. No. 264
Book No. 54
Page No. I
Series of 2002

(Sgd.) Oscar T. Zaldivar
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2002
PTR No. 7737245
Date Issued: January 4, 2001
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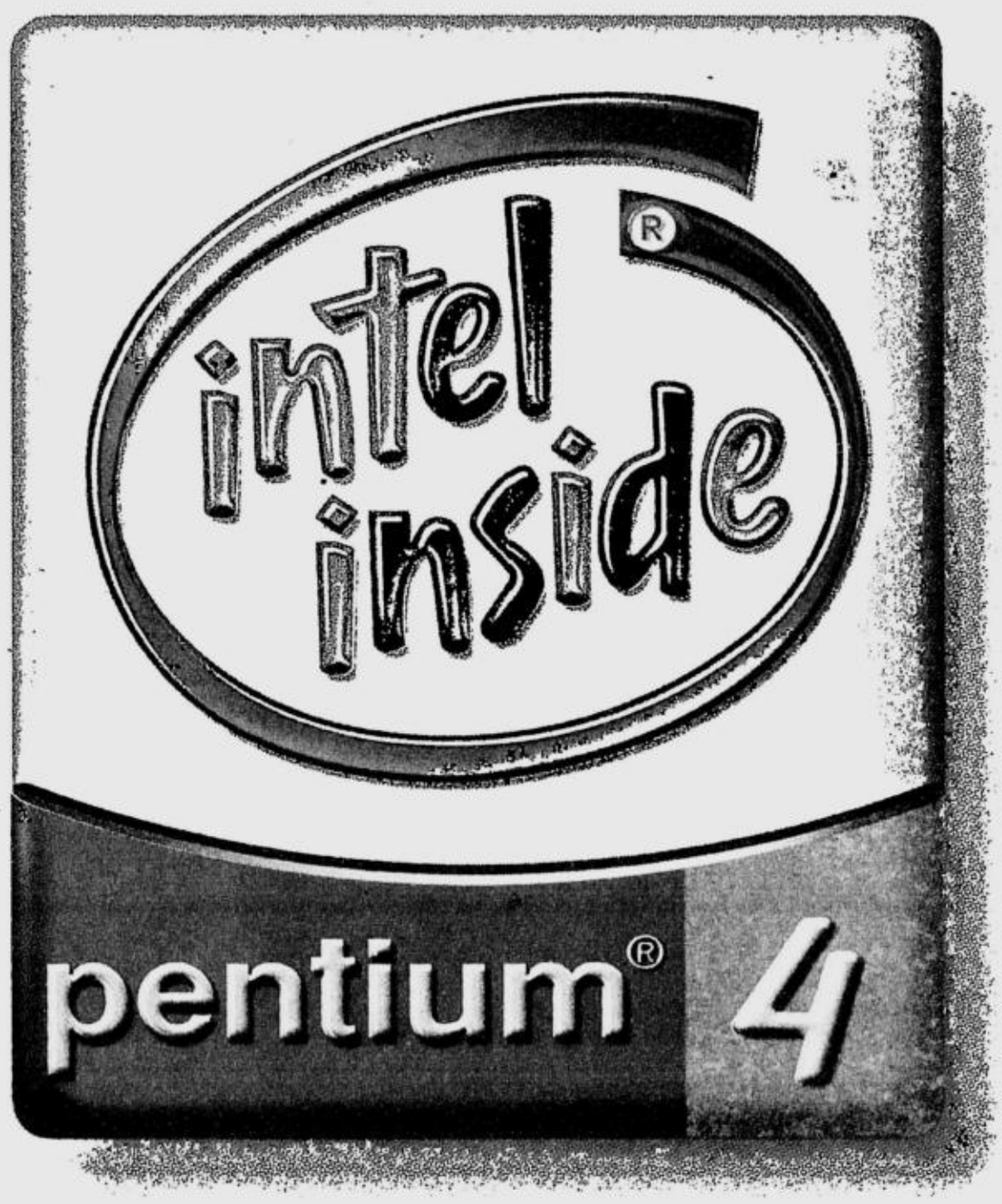

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INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

User profiles in Netscape

BY JERRY LIAO

USER profiles in Netscape Communicator allow more than one person to securely access his or her personal account on a shared desktop computer. Therefore, anyone who uses the shared desktop computer can access only his or her own personal e-mail and bookmark list. Here's how to do it:

(1) Exit and close any open Netscape application if there are any.

(2) Go to "Start," then "Programs" then "Netscape Communicator," go to "Utilities," "User" then "Profile Manager."

(3) Click "New" then "Next."

(4) Follow the instructions provided by the Wizard then click "Finish."

(5) Start Netscape Communicator from Windows' "Start" menu. When you see the "Profile Manager" window, click the drop-down arrow next to the "Profile Name" field to select the correct user profile.

(6) Click on "Start Communicator."

POWERTIPS

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Intel ships new Pentium 4

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

CHIPMAKING giant Intel Corp. introduced last week its latest Pentium 4 processor running at 2 and 2.2 gigahertz, a day after rival Advanced Micro Devices announced the availability of its Athlon XP processor 2000+, its latest chip designed for desktop computers.

Intel officials said that the new Pentium 4 processor, which uses the latest 0.13 micron fabrication process, will be available from "leading" computer makers worldwide.

"The new chip is now available in the market. It will be available through computer makers like Dell and IBM," Paolo Lopez, business development manager, Intel Philippines and Thailand, said during a local briefing.

The new Pentium 4, currently Intel's most powerful processor to date, is designed for high-performance desktop computers.

Meanwhile, AMD said that the Athlon XP processor 2000+, which is running at 1.67 Gigahertz, will be available soon in desktop computers manufactured by Compaq for the US market. Other companies expected to follow suit include Hewlett-Packard and MicronPC, LLC in the United States and NEC-CI in Europe, the statement said.

Intel said that it will increase volume production of the new Pentium 4s this year as it expects PC sales to improve from across all segments.

"We're anchoring our growth this year on the ramp up of Pentium 4s," Ricky Banaag, country manager of Intel Microelectronics Philippines, said in an interview.

"International Data Corp. is still calling out growth for PC sales as far as 2002 is concerned," Banaag added.

Banaag said that PC sales growth will come from the server, mobile and even the desktop market.

"Enterprises are still investing on technology," Banaag said.

The new Pentium 4 at 2.2 Ghz is priced at $562 in 1,000 unit quantities, while a Pentium 4 at 2 Ghz is at $364.

Meanwhile, the AMD Athlon XP processor 2000+ is priced at $339 in 1,000-unit quantities.

Senators' websites hacked

Text of hackers' message on the defaced sites

The following is part of the message which hackers left on the defaced websites of senators, stating their purpose as to why they do what they do, and revealing how vulnerable Philippine websites are. While the administrator of the servers on which the hacked sites reside maintain that the press should not glorify the activities of these hackers, the public has a right to know which systems have been attacked and how secure their online assets are in the Philippines.—Ed.

HACKING is, very simply, asking a lot of questions and refusing to stop asking. This is why computers are perfect for inquisitive people—they don't tell you to shut up when you keep asking questions or inputting commands over and over and over.

But hacking doesn't have to be confined to computers. Anyone with an inquisitive mind, a sense of adventure and strong belief in free speech and the right to know most definitely has a bit of a hacker spirit in them.

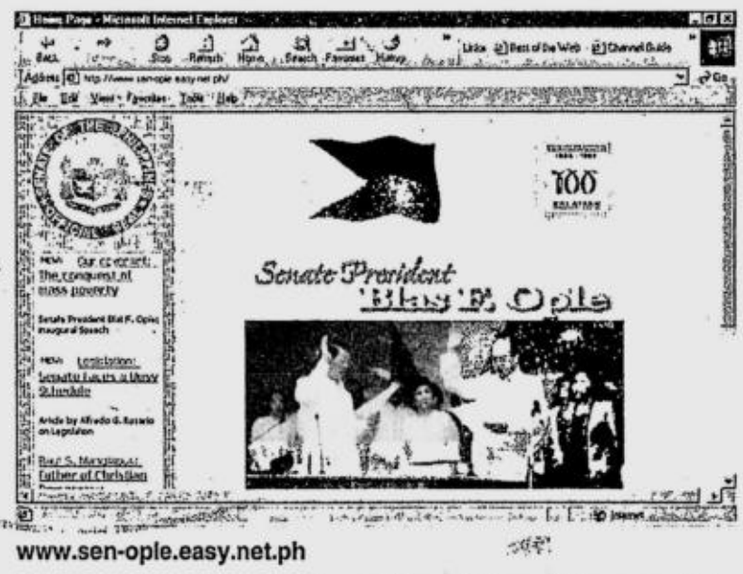
One of the common misconceptions is that anyone considered a hacker is doing something illegal. It's a sad commentary on the state of our society when someone who is basically seeking knowledge and the truth is assumed to be up to something nefarious. Nothing could be further from the truth. Hackers, in their idealistic naiveté, reveal the facts that they discover, without regard for money, corporate secrets or government cover-ups. The fact that we don't "play the game" of secrets also makes hackers a tremendous threat in the eyes of many who want to keep things away from the public.

Expensive security systems do not protect people from stupidity. While you may resent the fact that a bunch of kids has proven that your website sucks, think of what could have happened had you not learned of this and had someone else done it instead. Remember, the security hole was already there. If a hacker finds it, it's far more likely the people running the system will learn of the hole. If a someone with an ulterior motive finds the hole first, the harm will be far greater.

To the network administrator: No files were deleted, only backed up. Make Internet security your No. 1 priority.

www.sen-maceda.easy.net.ph

www.sen-herrera.easy.net.ph



www.sen-ople.easy.net.ph

THE WEBSITES of Senators Ernesto Maceda, Ernesto Herrera and Blas Ople were hacked last week, continuing the series of online security intrusions which have been happening since last year and exposing how vulnerable Philippine Web servers are to such attacks.

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA
INQ7.net

HACKER group Team Asian Pride has struck again, vandalizing the websites of three senators, a computer company and a corporate website of a local Internet service provider.

Team Asian Pride claimed to have defaced websites hosted "virtually" by Internet service provider Easynet Internet Services Inc.

Makati-based Easynet Internet Services was established in 1995. It currently offers Internet access to individual and corporate clients in the Philippines, apart from its Web hosting services. It has around 400 subscribers.

Those allegedly hit included the Philippine alternative Senate website (which is, ironically, under construction), the sites of Senators Ernesto Maceda, Ernesto Herrera and Blas Ople, the Meco Technologies website and the corporate, chat and support site of Easynet.

In an interview, an Easynet representative claimed that only its corporate website was affected by the attack.

"Only one website was hit, our corporate website. The website of our clients were not touched," Bill Tato, system support engineer of Easynet Internet, said, referring to the Senators and the Senate website.

In an e-mail sent to INQ7.net, Team Asian Pride claimed to have defaced the following:

- www.sen-maceda.easy.net.ph, www.senate.easy.net.ph
- www.sen-ople.easy.net.ph, www.sen-herrera.easy.net.ph
- www.meco.easy.net.ph
- www.easy.net.ph
- chat.easy.net.ph
- support.easy.net.ph.

A copy of the message placed on the defaced websites can be viewed at www.safemode.org/mirror/2002/01/04/www.sen-maceda.easy.net.ph.

The Senators' and the Senate's websites have now been restored.

In an e-mail, Team Asian Pride member "Glitch 12" claimed that the server hosting the websites has not been damaged.

"We didn't mean any harm. I just want to show the system is vulnerable," the hacker said.

Tato confirmed Team Asian Pride's statement.

He said that the hacker group only "disabled the website's source code" then modified the home page with their message.

"Our system administrator said that no files were deleted. We also have closed all 'open' ports which the hackers used to enter our system," Tato said.

Team Asian Pride claimed to have slipped through the Easynet's FTP (file transfer protocol) ports.

Carnegie Mellon's drive toward creating creators in science, technology industries

BY MAY R. ALCALDE

THE PAST decade stood witness to many IT-related creations given life within the Pittsburgh area in the United States. These innovations have not been simple solutions to problems. Instead, they have made waves in various sectors—breeding new ways of doing things, improving lifestyles and creating countless other new ideas that transformed generations.

Among these creations was the programming language called Java, which revolutionized the way people acquired and exchanged information over long distances. It also included medical robotics and computer-assisted surgery, which focused on "accurate and less invasive" orthopedic procedures. By the start of school year 2001-2002, over 20 schools around Pittsburgh would have had the opportunity to experience for free a program that uses "telerobotics" and "telepresence" to let students look at geological formations on Mars. This is expected to become the wave of the future.

Incidentally, the creators of these innovations come from world-renowned national research university, Carnegie Mellon University. Why does Carnegie Mellon produce "creators"? Does it really have anything to do with the school? So what makes these creators create useful and highly influential things? How do they get the ideas?

One of the strategies adopted by Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) during the past 5 years was to encourage enrollees from all walks of life by adopting computer programs that will attract even those without prior experience in technology or have only a fraction of interest in it.

Mostly male

Based on research done by Allan Fisher, former associate dean for Undergraduate Computer Science Education at CMU, and Jane Margolis, a visiting research scientist in CMU's computer science department who is now in UCLA, CMU used to attract a large population of male entrants, but there were very few women. In 1995, only 8 percent of the 110 computer science enrollees were female.

According to Fisher, who is now the president and CEO of Carnegie Technology Education (CTE), an educational subsidiary of CMU, men have a stronger attraction to technology per se at an early stage in their lives and are inclined to enroll in computer science courses. Women, on the other hand, see computer technology as a serious matter that involves 18-hour working days and leaves no time for lighter stuff. The research further showed that women are attracted to computing basically for its social applications.

The study found that CMU's computer programs used to be geared more toward enrolling those with prior computer experience, which, incidentally, were mostly men. But by the time they graduated, the students' experience in computing before they came in no longer had any bearing on their success, according to Fisher in an interview with the "Pittsburgh Business Times." The university's programs always removed the gap between the experienced and inexperienced, so it should not have any bearing on the school's choice of enrollees in the first place.

CMU has since revised its computer programs and enrollment requirements to include people with varied backgrounds, not necessarily in computing or technology.

"The more different kinds of people involved, the better the results will be," Fisher said. "If most of these people getting (computer) jobs have similar backgrounds, we aren't getting the best ideas out on the table."

CMU in the Philippines

CMU will see the rise of its first batch of potential creators in the Philippines this year, with the launch of the Information and Communications Technology Academy (iAcademy). iAcademy is a CTE partner college that offers four-year computer science degree courses to deserving students.

CMU has realized early on the importance of the Internet in delivering its brand of education. Thus, it established the Carnegie Technology Education. CTE's strategy is to tap community and four-year colleges, government agencies, private businesses and other institutions to provide computer science education to deserving students.

CTE provides world-class computer science expertise, an updated software development curriculum and a complete package of online educational tools. The partner institutions provide the classrooms, teachers and students. Thus begins a partnership of strength and vision.

For its part, CTE ensures that the curriculum is always up-to-date and that the institutions provide an almost-interactive learning experience to its students. The courses are designed by experts in online curriculum development, under the supervision of the faculty of CMU's School of Computer Science.

CTE combines live classroom instruction with online courses delivered over an advanced Internet-based system, which supports homework, testing, feedback, grading and student-teacher communication. The online delivery method allows for constant updating of course content and necessary testing materials.

CTE guides not only the students but also the instructors of partner colleges. Aside from training the teachers in CMU, CTE also constantly supervises teachers during the semester through a unique online system and a help-desk. This ensures that the faculty of partner colleges are able to deliver the CTE curriculum in the proper way and in a manner that is uniquely and personally effective to each student. It's like being in CMU itself.

Large-scale tech projects out this year, says IT firm

COMPANIES will not go for large scale projects this year as information technology spending by companies will be kept at a minimum, according to Rob O' Malley of Active Business Solutions Inc (ABS)., a Filipino IT solutions development company.

"Companies assumed a wait-and-see attitude last year. This year, they will be spending but will rather go for smaller projects that can be scaled up," Malley added.

Malley noted that companies also expect quicker return-on-investments on information technology this year, thus will go for solutions that can be implemented in 3 months or less.

He said that companies that have postponed IT projects last year will likely implement them in 2002.

Independent market research firm International Data Corp. (IDC) said early this month that the technology industry will make a recovery in the middle of 2002.

Growth will come from push for security software and services, and China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

IDC said that IT spending would increase slightly in the United States (4 to 6 percent), Western Europe (6 to 7 percent), and Asia-Pacific region (10 to 12 percent).

Malley shares the same prediction, saying that ABS is expecting growth in 2002 as the demand for CRM solutions pick up in middle of the year.

He said that the insurance industry will represent 80 percent of its revenues from CRM solutions in 2002.

Malley also said that the demand for a service called "CRM audit" has also grown over the last few months. A CRM audit involves looking into the gaps in existing CRM systems of a certain company, and recommend the vital technology required.

ABS is currently a company under the Yapster e-Conglomerate Inc., owned by the Yap family. It is also a partner of software company Oracle Corp. *Erwin G. Oliva*

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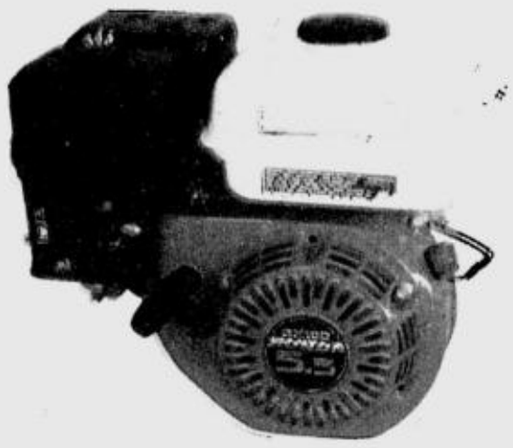

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Pagcor drops loan bid, revives IPO plan

BY CLARRISSA S. BATINO

STATE-OWNED Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. has revived a plan to sell its shares to the public to raise fresh funds in lieu of an P18-billion borrowing through the state-run National Development Co.

An INQUIRER source said that Pagcor's board of directors had decided not to pursue a borrowing through a bond issue of NDC, the investment arm of the trade and industry department, given that the indirect revenue boost to the national government was no longer necessary.

The funds to be raised by the NDC from the issuance of bonds would have been relent to Pagcor, which, in turn, would have used the money to buy about 60 hectares of property from the Philippine Estates Authority. The PEA would then remit at least P10 billion to the national government and help support the budget deficit to a target of P145 billion last year.

The PEA property is being envisioned to be the site of the gaming firm's ambitious Entertainment City, a huge gaming center with theme parks and hotels.

While the development was still the company's main objective, its role "to help provide budget support to the national government" was no longer as important, the source explained, since the P145-billion deficit target last year was most likely met.

This year's budget gap target of P130 billion was not only much smaller but the government has a lot of other options in financing the budget, having raised substantial foreign borrowings ahead of schedule, the source added.

"We are still pursuing the Entertainment City but we are looking at different schemes to bring in strategic partners that would not only provide funds but expertise to the group," the source said.

Instead of the NDC borrowing, the gaming firm would now focus on a plan to offer to the public the shares of its wholly owned subsidiary, Pagcor International, an existing company that was formed to go into joint ventures and allied investments.

The proceeds of the IPO would be used to help fund the company's ambitious development. Pagcor remains profitable as earnings last year reached P17.4 billion, an amount P2 billion higher than the previous year.

The plan that the gaming firm wanted to formulate within the year was to first invite big investors to put money in Pagcor International. After a year, the company would do an initial public offering of a yet undetermined number of shares.

The source said the Pagcor charter was "more lenient" to IPO plans rather than complex borrowings that could compromise the company's profitability and, in turn, disadvantage the company's beneficiaries, including the Office of the President.

"A review of the charter was conducted and there could be a legal impediment to any borrowing. The charter states that the company's beneficiaries should not be disadvantaged in any transaction that Pagcor enters into," the source said.

Pagcor's beneficiaries include the Philippine Sports Commission, the Department of Science and Technology, and the social fund of the Office of the President, among others.

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MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

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2010: The United States of Europe?

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

THE BILLS signal the dawn of a radical idea. Unite nations under one currency and one set of monetary policies. This may lead to a whole new political animal.

As people welcomed the new year, 300 million Europeans in 12 countries began to use euro notes and coins. In all history, mankind has not seen a bigger changeover.

French President Jacques Chirac called it "a victory for Europe."

Now reality

Britain, Sweden and Denmark are part of the European Union, too, but they have been resisting the euro. In fact, Queen Elizabeth II has stated that the euro would not be considered legal tender in her palaces.

Nevertheless, British Prime Minister Tony Blair concedes that "The euro is now a reality, so I think the idea that we can run from it or hide our heads in the sand and pretend it doesn't exist would be very foolish."

Comparing prices

It will become far easier for Europeans to compare prices and shop for the cheapest goods. An article in Newsweek (Jan. 14, 2002) gives some glaring examples.

A pair of Armani jeans costs E125 in Dublin but only E100 in Paris. In Finland, a cup of espresso coffee costs E2, but it is less than half that price in Spain. A Big Mac is only E2.11 in Greece, or half the E4.63 in Ireland.

Then take transportation. In Greece, gasoline runs at E0.67 per liter, compared with E1.20 in Holland. A Mercedes SLK 320 sells at E64,930 in Portugal, in contrast to only E40,252 in Germany.

More trade and growth

What else does a single currency mean for Europe?

It will turbo-boost trade among the member-states. In previous decades, exporters and importers lost some money when they had to change currencies. These costs are gone now.

Competition gets sharper. A French university that imports laboratory equipment can easily compare prices across the continent—they are now neatly expressed in euros. The school can thus get the best deals.

Homemakers can compare prices, too, when buying appliances.

With greater trade comes more growth. A Bonn manufacturer of CD players will no longer limit his sales to the boundaries of Germany. He can easily sell to the other nations of Europe.

Because they use one currency, it is far easier for a firm of one country to invest in another. Investment flows should rise.

The continent will likely see more tourism. Travelers don't have to lose some money when crossing borders, for currency will not have to be exchanged.

"Europe's single currency creates a kind of clean slate on which all sorts of problems suddenly stand out," says Newsweek. "Because prices are more transparent, not only the cost of goods, but of labor, becomes easy to compare, highlighting labor practices and problems of industrial policy."

Huge financial market

Financial transactions will be simplified, cutting the cost of trading. The advent of the euro will swell the supply of euro-denominated assets. This will lead to a bigger European financial market.

Inflation will be controlled by the European Central Bank. Because of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Central Bank will keep the budget deficits and money supply of the member-countries in line.

Moreover, trade in euros will make it more stable than any of the former individual currencies. The ups of some European economies will be canceled by the downs of others. That stability will make the euro attractive as an asset that won't be harmed by shocks to the economy.

Evolution of The Union

The process began in the 1950s. The Treaty of Rome in 1957 created the common market, aimed at promoting "an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe."

Following this was the Single European Act of 1986 and the Treaty of European Union in 1992. More political and economic ties were forged.

Then in Jan. 1, 1999, the union fixed the exchange rates among the member-nations. They started to implement a common money policy. One year after, sellers had to list prices in euro.

From Jan.1, 2002, euros will find their way into wallets, bills, and store counters.

The economic shift will probably lead to profound political changes.

Last Dec. 14, European leaders gathered in Laeken, Belgium, to begin work on a "European constitution." The plan is to have it in place by 2004. The prime minister of Belgium has written a draft declaration which was criticized by a diplomat as "clearly written by someone with a blueprint for a full-fledge federal state in mind."

Up for debate is the role of national parliaments, a broader charter of rights, direct taxation, even a directly elected president.

Is a European federal government possible? German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder is an ardent supporter of "European Federalism."

Given the trend, humanity may well see a new nation by the end of the decade: the United States of Europe.

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Glasses full for resilient liquor business

NEW YORK—Americans are hitting more of the hard stuff as the stay-at-home, post-Sept. 11 recession tightens its grip.

Spending on liquor has risen in recent months, even as US consumers cut back on other discretionary purchases, industry watchers said.

Sales of spirits and other alcoholic beverages typically climb during recessions. But sales appear to have swelled even more this time following the September attacks on the United States and the war on terrorism.

"People are drinking more, because people tend to drink more during tough times," said JP Morgan beverage analyst John Faucher. "That fits into the current environment, both from a Sept. 11 standpoint as well as from an economic standpoint."

The drinks industry got an initial boost when Americans retreated to their homes in September and stocked up their liquor cabinets. Then, it got a lucky break in the form of warm weather, which got

GLASSES/ C4

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Corporates and the community–Hands as well as funds

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Anna Irmina N. Elicaño

THE VALUABLE role that corporations should play in the community is one of my favorite topics. I feel fortunate to work for a company that lets me indulge my interest through partnering with colleagues to help make a difference in the lives of people in the communities where we operate.

Most people know the name Levi Strauss through our branded apparel. But the history of how Levi Strauss & Co. got its start nearly 150 years ago is relevant to what we're talking about because it created the framework for the company's focus on community partnership.

Levi Strauss arrived in San Francisco as a poor German immigrant, fleeing religious discrimination and seeking new opportunities in a country where he would be measured by his abilities, not his social class or ethnic background.

Arriving in San Francisco with little more to his name than a pile of canvas for tents and wagon covers, he soon discovered that local gold-miners couldn't find pants sturdy enough for their needs. So, he took his canvas to a tailor and created the world's first blue jeans.

Word about "those sturdy pants of Levi's" spread quickly and the company flourished, at a time when economic conditions were unstable, poverty was widespread and racism was rampant. Since those early days, the company has been developing business principles around a working environment that welcomes diversity, champions causes that support the disenfranchised and empowers its employees to make a difference in society.

Through the following decades, the corporate culture at LS&Co. has remained focused on those beliefs, guiding its strategic direction and contributing to its corporate reputation, brand image and business success.

Levi's Foundation

This year, Levi Strauss & Co. and its philanthropic arm, the Levi Strauss Foundation, is donating over $16 million to fund projects in communities where we have a business presence, through grants to non-profit organizations.

Our grants focus on HIV/AIDS education and prevention; and social justice and economic empowerment for marginalized communities, particularly youth and women.

Why this focus? The ugly truth about discrimination is that it isn't always obvious. Apart from unequal access to healthcare, education and financial services, prejudice—whether against specific races, religions or groups of individuals—includes the awkward, unspoken tensions that exist, preventing people from communicating and working as equals.

Such prejudices deny our society the benefit of the unique abilities and talents of many of its citizens.

We support projects that seek to break down barriers and eliminate obstacles preventing marginalized and disenfranchised people from realizing their basic human rights.

As a company, LS&Co. grew out of the hard work of one man who found the liberty to exercise his ideas and abilities. Society today still offers such opportunities, provided we dismantle the walls of discrimination that surround so many people.

Here in the Philippines, since 1995, LS&Co. and the Levi Strauss Foundation have enjoyed an excellent partnership with the PBSP for our grant-making programs. Through PBSP, we have made grants worth over $600,000 to date.

And yet, as you all know, when we look closely at the needs of communities, it's easy to find people who need help. There are far more projects than we could ever hope to support—there's always too little money to go around.

But we have another resource we can offer our communities—the talents and time of our employees. Their professional experience and technical skills can complement the financial support we give to community projects, for added impact in becoming catalysts of change and making a difference in the lives of those we are aiming to help.

Employee volunteerism is a tradition at Levi Strauss & Co. It's a commitment to an idea that's as old as the company. Since its inception, the company has believed that being in business means more than making a profit. It means being responsive to the needs of employees and the communities where they live and work.

Volunteers

At the heart of the company's commitment to volunteerism is the Community Involvement Team (CIT) program, which started in the 1960s. CITs are volunteer groups made up of employees and managers at all levels of the company. Through CITs in our offices around the world, employees get directly involved and make a difference helping the needy in their local communities.

The CIT program is not "directed" from company headquarters. Rather, each team decides what role it wishes to play in its local area. CIT members choose projects they wish to be involved in through funding and personal time commitment. Programs are wide-ranging, but reflect specific personal interests of our employees who work in and belong to those communities.

Because the CIT employee volunteer program is firmly entrenched in LS&Co.'s corporate fabric, we probably have fewer issues in generating support and participation, than if this were a new program being introduced.

However, the realities of being in a competitive industry are still sometimes reflected in the amount of time employees can commit to CIT work; nonetheless, they maintain their energy and dedication to the cause.

Some key factors that have contributed to the success of our employee volunteer program are:

- Having the support and participation of top management;
- Developing clear and specific short-term and longer-term aims and goals;
- Positioning the program as an opportunity for employees to learn new skills, while having fun and interacting with colleagues;
- Valuing the local community knowledge of employees, who themselves are members of the community and therefore in an ideal position to identify community needs.

CIT members participate throughout the lifecycle of the projects they undertake—from the initial phase when they make site visits to assess proposals from potential grantees, through monitoring and evaluation of projects the CIT decides to support.

In this way, our employees can really learn what non-profit work is all about. Volunteerism provides them with opportunities for personal development through learning new skills.

At Levi Strauss Philippines, we are proud that our CIT is known as one of the biggest and most dynamic in all the company offices worldwide. The 100-plus active members not only volunteer for work to support charitable projects, they also undertake fund-raisers to bring in more money for further grant-making.

Partnership

Each year, PBSP and the Levi Strauss organization participate in some 20 projects together—that's just a rough figure.

I'll highlight just one example. Earlier this year we took a stretch of the Cavite coastline—one of the most polluted, garbage-strewn areas of coast within driving distance—and took a crew of employees and some business partners who worked a full day, cleaning the site by hand.

Maybe it was just a kilometer or two, but it was a start; when you talk about saving (or in this case resuscitating) the environment, every meter counts. And frankly, it was a statement of commitment to action that we hoped other community members, private and public, would respond to.

Aside from finding and funding community partnership grants in the Philippines, we have learned to look at a bigger world community.

In the recent events in the United States, Levi Strauss was one of the first corporate donors to offer financial aid, and to help set up a support and scholarship fund for families of victims in the the New York and Washington attacks. We sent hundreds of pairs of 569s—one of our newest, hottest, products—to help clothe the crews involved in the cleanup at the WTC.

We worked with the Red Cross to support employees who wanted to donate blood in our San Francisco office, and the company matched employee donations to the Red Cross WTC Fund, dollar for dollar. That effort wasn't limited to the United States alone: While it would have been impractical for us in the Philippines to send jeans or blood over to the US, we did collect a sizeable amount in employee cash donations to be sent to the American Red Cross. And as in our US company, the company matched the donations dollar for dollar.

New center

Maybe we are being a little too self-congratulatory, but we like to think that our relationship with PBSP over recent years may have been one factor in leading them to develop the concept of the Corporate Volunteering Center.

Certainly, we feel that a center such as this could help corporations minimize the initial difficulties and pitfalls that might be faced when trying to inculcate a spirit of volunteerism in the workplace. It will also give companies the resources to develop a program of employee volunteerism that can support strategic business objectives.

But good corporate governance and business responsibility, of course, go beyond supporting community projects. Companies must conduct their total business in a manner consistent with the values they prescribe.

This includes developing strategies and performance indicators which analyze the social impact of business decisions, taking into account such issues as the environment, community development, corruption, and workplace health and safety concerns.

The apparel industry, more than many others, has long been closely scrutinized by outside stakeholders, going back to allegations of sweatshop conditions in some garment manufacturing facilities. Since 1991, LS&Co. has applied a comprehensive workplace code of conduct—called Global Sourcing and Operating Guidelines—to every manufacturing facility that makes products to be sold under the company's brand names.

The guidelines monitor performance related to a range of issues such as employment practices, child labor, workplace health and safety, and environmental responsibility. Implementing the guidelines is a huge undertaking requiring time, money and human resources commitment. And, of course, this increases the cost of a garment.

Good business

With our community partnership grant-making, employee volunteerism and workplace code of conduct, we are sometimes asked why we remain so committed to socially responsible practices, especially in today's competitive and difficult business environment for the apparel industry and recent economic troubles in many Asia Pacific markets.

Certainly, these activities may make some people think of us as a "nice" company, but does it make good business sense?

The answer, without any doubt, is yes. In fact it makes more sense today than ever before to do business in a socially responsible way.

In today's business world, companies must demonstrate commitment to social values—the rights of employees and workers, responsible stewardship of the environment, and the broader interests of the communities in which we operate. Corporate social responsibility is no longer a "nice to have."

Rather, it has come to be expected of corporations by a myriad of stakeholders—including investors, customers, employees, business partners, government bodies and the media.

Equally important from the perspective of the business bottom line, consumers have shown they are

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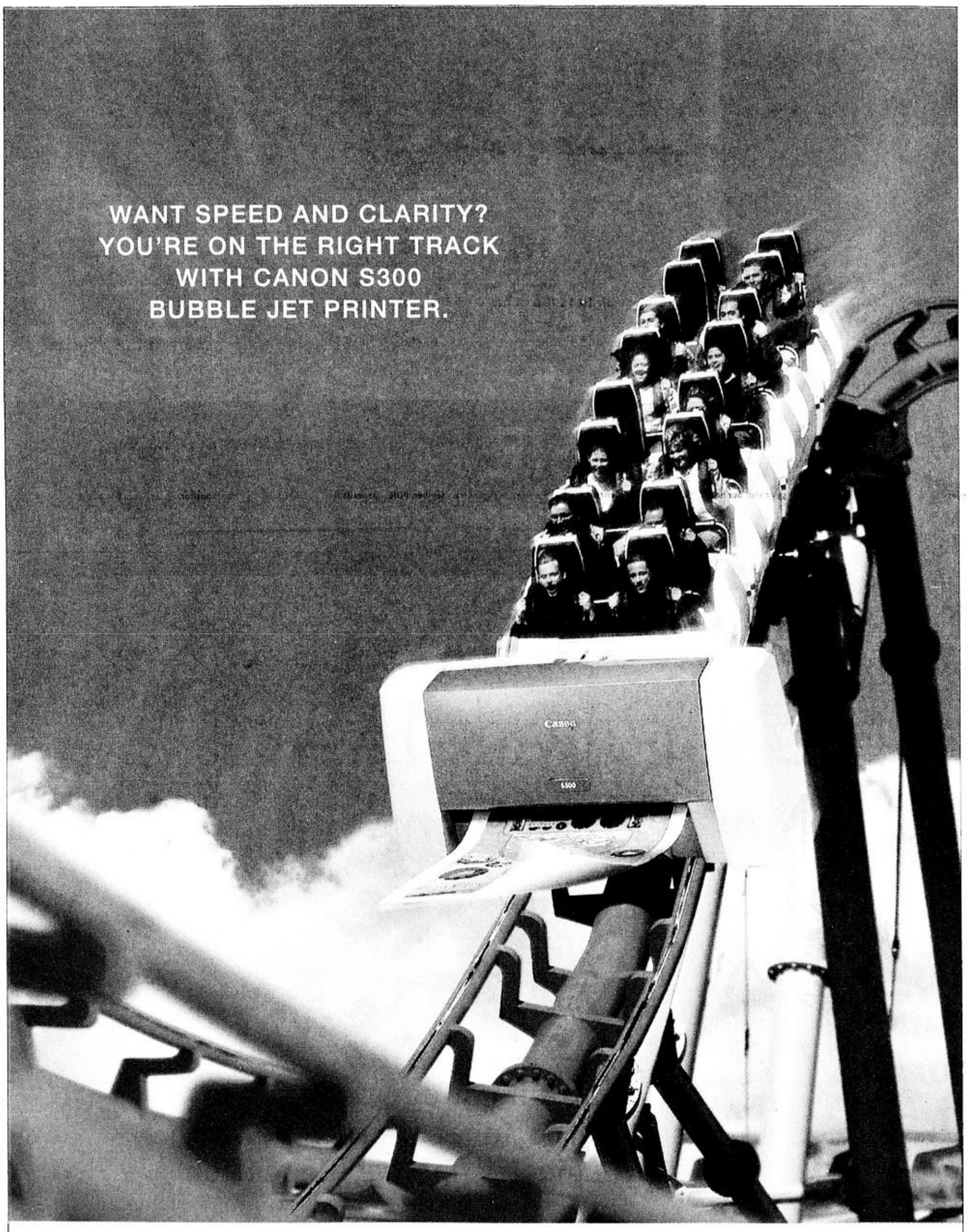

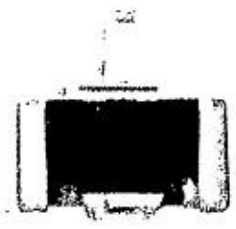

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Corporates

(From page C2)

ready and willing to "punish" companies that don't live up to expectations in this regard. I am sure you can all think of some of the well-documented consumer boycotts of specific brands.

More and more consumers are now willing to make purchase choices on how socially responsible they perceive companies to be. If they feel good about our company, they will buy our products over a competitor's. Time is running out for companies that choose to ignore their responsibilities as corporate citizens.

Contributions

The other side of the equation is that companies need to operate in healthy, prosperous communities, for their businesses to succeed, for sales to grow and for new talent to be nurtured as potential employees. So it is in the interests of corporations to contribute to social development in local communities.

Levi Strauss & Co. has a long history of corporate social responsibility. We believe that our values give us the long-term focus needed to make the investments today that will promote the success of our business in the future. Although socially responsible business practices cost money, these investments will protect the health of our enterprise in the future.

And, at the end of the day, when we have stood for what we believe to be ethical, we know we've done what we could, and that we've done the right thing. Like many things of true and lasting value, it's hard to put a price on that.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and general manager of Levi Strauss Philippines Inc. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

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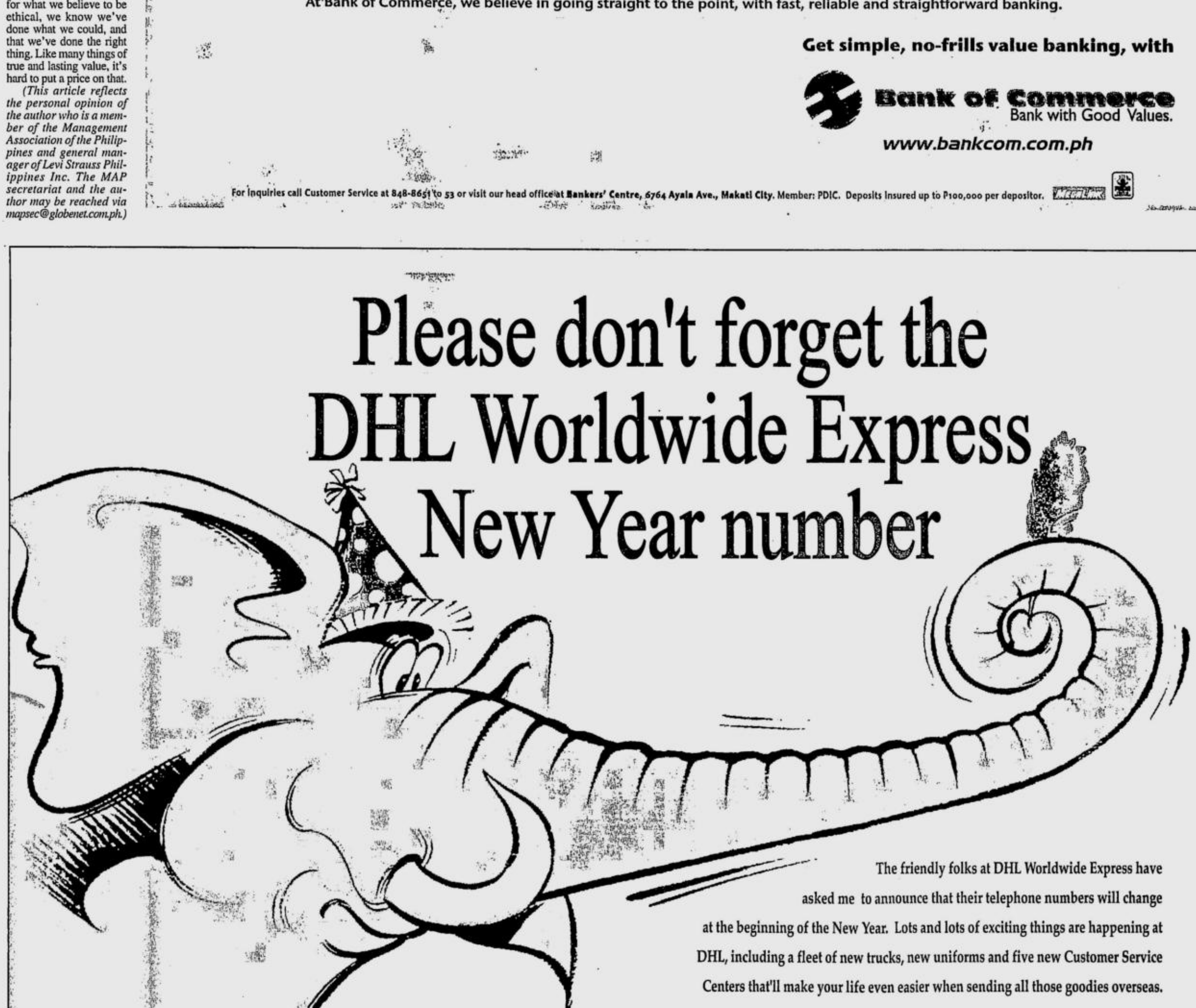

The friendly folks at DHL Worldwide Express have asked me to announce that their telephone numbers will change at the beginning of the New Year. Lots and lots of exciting things are happening at DHL, including a fleet of new trucks, new uniforms and five new Customer Service Centers that'll make your life even easier when sending all those goodies overseas.

I told the nice people at DHL that we couldn't expect everyone to have a memory as good as mine, so I've given you the new telephone numbers BIG so you won't forget!

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Get a US computer education for ₱40,000 a term

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

STUDYING abroad is a dream that most students here have—a passport to a very lucrative career in a multinational corporation in North America or Europe. Only a few, however, can really afford it.

Consider tuition expenses in universities in the United States. On average, private institutions there charge anywhere from $12,000 to $19,000 a year, that's close to P1 million a year. Some universities even bill their students as much as $30,000. These exclude living expenses that, on average, can reach about $10,000 a year.

In the United Kingdom, an undergraduate student seeking a degree in medicine will have to shell out, on average, some $15,660 in tuition expenses and about $6,600 in living expenses over a nine-month period each year. A postgraduate course will cost just as much.

New school

But there is hope. Systems Technology Institute, with longtime partner Carnegie Technology Education, is opening, at an initial cost of P30 million to P40 million, a new school in Makati in June that will offer virtually the same curriculum that students at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, one of the world's top computer schools, take up.

The Information and Communications Technology Academy—iAcademy—places emphasis on "quality" in the phrase "quality education," according to the school's dean, Mitch Andaya.

CTE executive director Philip Miller says a student at iAcademy "will learn the real stuff, the very best stuff that we know how to put together and offered by faculty members with 20 years in Carnegie Mellon.".

The same "stuff" that molded the computer whiz who invented the computer language that now governs the Internet and a Nobel prize winning mathematician, John Forbes Nash, whose life inspired the story behind actor Russell Crowe's latest movie, "A Beautiful Mind."

Andaya says iAcademy integrates courses developed by CTE into its curriculum. "What's happening is that we are taking the quality of education provided by Carnegie Mellon and taking it to the Philippines. That's the main feature of iAcademy," he says.

"There's a reasonable assurance that the students (at iAcademy) will be getting the same kind of academic program that they will experience if they were in a classroom in Carnegie Mellon or one of our partners," adds Miller.

Carnegie Mellon

Carnegie Mellon is a private, coeducational institution of higher learning in Pennsylvania. It is regarded as one of the world's top universities in the fields of information technology and research.

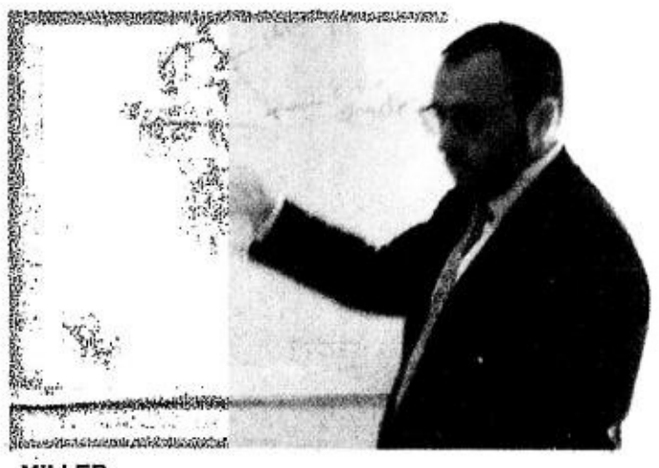
The university grew out of a $1-million "gift" from industrialist Andrew Carnegie in 1900 to the city of Pittsburgh for the creation of a technical school. Originally called the Carnegie Technical Schools, it was renamed the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1912. The institute merged with the Mellon Institute (established in 1913 in Pittsburgh by financier Andrew Mellon) in 1967. The university has built a reputation as a vital arts center, operating three art galleries, two concert halls and two theaters.

The faculty has included Nobel Prize-winning economists Herbert Alexander Simon and Merton Miller. A number of brilliant minds have walked through Carnegie Mellon's halls. Among its alumni is James Gosling, who created "Oak," a programming language that would later be renamed "Java"—the language of the Internet. Carnegie Mellon also provided a second home for John Forbes Nash Jr., a mathematician who was awarded the 1994 Nobel Prize for Economics for his landmark work, first begun in the 1950s, on the mathematics of game theory.

First-rate and cheap

Miller says an education at iAcademy—or even at Carnegie Mellon or CTE—won't guarantee a life of greatness.

"What I guarantee is that ordinary folks, if they are willing to apply themselves, will get a first-rate education," an education that, compared to standards set abroad, will come cheap—a US education at less than a tenth of the cost. For one thing, students won't have to travel thousands of miles and spend hundreds of thousands of pesos each year just to get there.



MILLER

iAcademy charges about P40,000 in tuition expenses per semester, roughly the same as those levied by first-rate schools here like De La Salle

GET/ C7

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Glasses . . .

(From page C1)

consumers out of the house and back into bars and restaurants, beverage executives and analysts said.

Hard liquor marketers are hoping for yet another lift with the launch of network television advertising, ending a longtime informal ban on such ads. Also, beverage companies have been unveiling a spate of new spirits-based beverages aimed at younger drinkers, as a population bulge of 20-somethings swells and a generation tastes cosmopolitans and martinis for the first time.

Business in the spirits industry in late 2001 actually looked much better than it was at the same time in 2000, according to Michel Roux, a spirits industry veteran who currently serves as chairman and chief executive officer of drinks importer and marketer Crillon Importers Ltd.

It is still too early to see concrete trends of spirits sales in the last part of 2001, as many beverage companies have yet to report their results. Any recovery would mark the end of a long dry spell for hard liquor producers. Sales dropped by nearly a third from 1980 through the mid-1990s as the baby boom aged and health concerns mounted.

Wine and beer sales, held up relatively well, but have seen a somewhat flat growth curve.

But things are looking up for most alcoholic beverage makers, spurred by a yearning among consumers for a quick lift in a down economic environment.

"I would agree with the theory that people have been drinking more," said Davenport & Co. analyst Ann Gurkin, who follows a number of beverage companies.

Gurkin said that there has been more consumption at home rather than at fancy restaurants, but that the high-end restaurant business picked up at the end of the year.

Both at home and away, consumers seem to be spending even more on higher-priced beverages than they did before the economic downturn. That reflects a long-term trend of consumers reaching for "top-shelf" liquors, industry watchers said.

Even in the recession, marketers say, people are trying to give themselves a relatively low-priced luxury like a single malt Scotch or bottle of champagne, while foregoing a vacation or a new car.

"People continue to trade up for the most part," said Gray Ottley of Silver Creek Distillers, a producer of alcohols including Blue Ice potato vodka.

The drinks business has also gotten a boost in recent months from weather, which boosts drinkers' thirsts and spurs entertaining. According to Planalytics, which does business analytics employing weather data and forecasts, 28 of 30 major US metro areas it tracks recorded above normal temperatures in November after a below-normal month last year. That trend continued through December. *Reuters*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2107, Series of 2002

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Trium phones: cutting-edge technology and design attitude

TRIUM Telecom Asia-Pacific officially announced the launch of its mobile phone brand, Trium, in the Philippines. Headquartered in Japan, Trium has two state-of-the-art production factories in France and Hangzhou, China.

Mitsubishi Trium is one of the world's leading mobile phone manufacturers. The renowned Trium brand has captured significant shares in the mobile phone markets in 2001. Production and sales of Mitsubishi Trium's worldwide terminals grew by 20 percent to 20 million units by the end of 2001.

Such impressive growth was the result of Trium's commitment to design and technology excellence in its mobile phones.

Trium mobile phones are characterized by style, innovation and simplicity. The mobile handsets are a pleasure to use as they combine sophisticated design with high technological specifications.

Trium mobile phones are constantly in the forefront of technology and design innovations. It is one of the world's first companies to launch a PDA integrated mobile phone and a color display GPRS mobile phone.

These cutting-edge creations stemmed from Trium's committed investment in a research production center in Britanny and a research and design studio in Paris. Trium's R&D Center are currently working on new Trium models and the technology for future mobile communications such as WAP, GPRS and UMTS.

Trium targets its mobile phones at the sophisticated mobile phone users who require powerful mobile communications devices created with style, innovation, simplicity and functionality in mind.

Norio Miyazawa, CEO of Trium Telecom Asia Pacific, said, "We are very excited to be launching Trium in the Philippines. Trium's emphasis in technology and aesthetic design has created compelling mobile phones such as Mondo and Eclipse. We are very confident that Trium mobile phones will be very popular with mobile phone users in the Philippines."

In the Philippines, Trium aims to work closely with telecommunication companies, wireless application developers and regulatory bodies to develop and promote future mobile communications standards such as 3G networks.

Trium Mondo is one of the world's first GSM/GPRS phone-enabled Pocket PCs. Trium Eclipse is likewise one of the world's first GPRS mobile phones with a color display, and Trium Mars and Neptune are advanced and stylish lightweight dual-band mobile phones.

BANKARD SPONSORS EALA SHOW

Bankard Inc., the credit card company with the widest range of products, recently sponsored a fashion show dubbed 'Scenes in Transit' of en vogue designer Rhett Eala, staged at the Tower Lobby of the state-of-the-art RCBC Plaza Complex in Makati. The event, which showcases Eala's Holiday Collection 2001, is in consonance with Bankard's new marketing thrust known as The New Bankard Experience. The show is produced by Ideal Edge Inc., a novel events management group headed by partners Tara Y. Santos and Kit Gordon. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Irene Taylo, Bankard marketing service head, Meliza Rodriguez, Bankard FVP for card sales and marketing, designer Rhett Eala, Santos and Gordon of Ideal Edge Inc. Bankard, the newest member of the Yuchengco Group of Companies, is among the top credit card issuers in the country. It operates one of the largest merchant networks, with more than 25,000 accredited establishments accepting its wide range of cards.

TOP INTEL EXEC KEYNOTES SEMINAR

Intel Corp. vice president and general manager for worldwide assembly test manufacturing (ATM) S.H. Wong talks about 'Leading Edge Technology' during the Semiconductors and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) seminar dubbed 'Managing the Downturn, Preparing for the Upturn.' In his talk, Wong stressed the need to shift technology to where the market is heading. He also encouraged the industry to continue to invest aggressively in research and development (R&D), as well as people training to turn the slowdown into growth. Intel Corp., the world's largest chipmaker, is also a leading manufacturer of personal computer, networking and communication products. Additional information on Intel is available at www.intel.com/pressroom.

PGI BAGS LABOR AWARD FOR INDUSTRIAL PEACE

Labor Secretary Pat. Sto. Tomas congratulates Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI) EVP Luli Heras de Leon during the awarding ceremony at Malacañang as the PGI Labor Management Committee (PGI-LMC) is cited by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as one of the three grand awardees of the 2001 nationwide search for the outstanding LMC awards for industrial peace. DOLE's annual award recognizes LMCs that have fostered labor-management cooperation in core concerns. This year's citation recognizes PGI-LMC's continuing pursuit of its objective of collaboration, cooperation and industrial peace leading to productivity and competitiveness. Looking on is National Conciliation and Mediation Board director Rolando Rico Olalia. PGI is a subsidiary of Unocal, one of the world's leading energy and project development companies.

British packaging machinery association to visit Manila

BRITISH and Philippine trade relations are off to a good start this year with the visit of a trade mission organized by the Processing and Packaging Machinery Association (PPMA) of the UK from Jan. 14 to 18. The mission is supported by Trade Partners UK, the United Kingdom's trade promotion body, and the British Embassy, Manila.

As the trade association for the industry in the United Kingdom, the PPMA represents the interests of more than 200 companies – including those taking part in the mission – producing processing and packaging machinery for the food, beverage, chemical, pharmaceutical, cosmetics and other sectors. Packaging is one of the top ten British manufacturing industries, and the United Kingdom is among the five largest packaging markets in Europe.

Cartoning machinery from Bradman-Lake is already supplied to many food industry customers in the Far East, and the company now seeks agents and customers in the Philippines. A leading British manufacturer of high-quality automatic weighing machinery, Easiweigh offers well-proven standard ranges and will also design and manufacture special-purpose equipment to order, from a single manually operated weighing machine to a complete, fully automatic, packaging line. GEI Insight Systems, a subsidiary of long-established company GEI Processing and Packaging Machinery, will promote a filled bottle inspection system for beverage and food producers.

In a completely different field, natural body products such as lotions, creams and shampoos will be highlighted by Nectar. Around 90 percent of Nectar's sales are through 355 franchised shops in 25 countries, mainly in Korea and Japan, and they now plan to expand operations in the Philippines. Finally, theatrical costumes are the specialty of tailor Samuel Hogarth & Sons which has the capacity to produce costumes in quantity, to meet tight time scales and budgets. It can also make garments to match customers' samples, or from designers' sketches or photographs and caters for corporate and individual tailoring.

The group will be led by Ian Frame, technical consultant of PPMA Ltd. He has been in the packaging business for 35 years now and visited Manila before as a resource speaker in a British Embassy-sponsored seminar titled "Packaging? UK Solutions." Martyn Skinner, trade and investments promoter of Trade Partners UK from London will also join this trade mission. He will meet with local companies for business opportunities in the United Kingdom where he can also share his expert advice, having years in the Philippines working for the private sector.

Companies interested in meeting with the mission members may get in touch with Tina Bondoc, commercial officer, British Embassy Manila at 816-7116 or e-mail tina.bondoc@fco.gov.uk.

SMART HOLDS MOBILE CLINIC

Smart Communications Inc. recently launched a series of mobile customer care clinics designed to deliver customer care services right at the doorsteps of its corporate accounts. Dubbed Mobile Clinics, the new customer care initiatives are essentially business center services transported to the offices of Smart's key corporate accounts to handle their sales and aftersales requirements. The clinics feature product presentations, demos, and free phone checkups and repair aside from the usual business center services. It also includes the setting up of booths manned by select Smart representative from marketing, credit and collection, customer management officers, accredited service center and key account managers. The booths handle the acceptance and processing of aftersales, billing requests and complaints. 'The growing importance of corporate accounts has resulted to this specialized handling of their service needs,' said Alex Caeg, customer care department head of Smart Communications. Smart Mobile Clinics have been successfully undertaken in Petron, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, Kintetsu Express, and Viva Entertainment, among others. Shown are the employees of Petron availing of the many free services provided by the Smart Mobile Clinics.

SMCL STUDENT WINS ZONTA BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP

A third year student of Saint Michael's College of Laguna (SMCL), a reputable private non-sectarian school based in the town of Biñan, was recently named District 17 winner of the 2001 Zonta International Foundation's (ZIF) Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship Award. Melbeth A. Alonte, a BS Commerce student majoring in management accounting, will receive $400 and a certificate during the 11th District Conference of ZIF in Bangkok, Thailand. She was nominated by Dr. Lourdes Almeda-Sese, ZI Vice Area 5 director and ex officio of the Zonta Club of Laguna, upon the recommendation of dean Victor C. Manabat of the College of Business and Information Technology of SMCL. Initiated in 1997, the ZIF Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship program is open to women pursuing an undergraduate degree in business leading to a career in business management. Shown is Alonte (third from right) receiving a citation from Belinda Tan Gana Cariño, president of Zonta Club of Laguna (ZCL), while Sese (extreme right) and other ZCL member and SMCL officials look on.

MANSFIELD RENEWS AGASSI'S CONTRACT

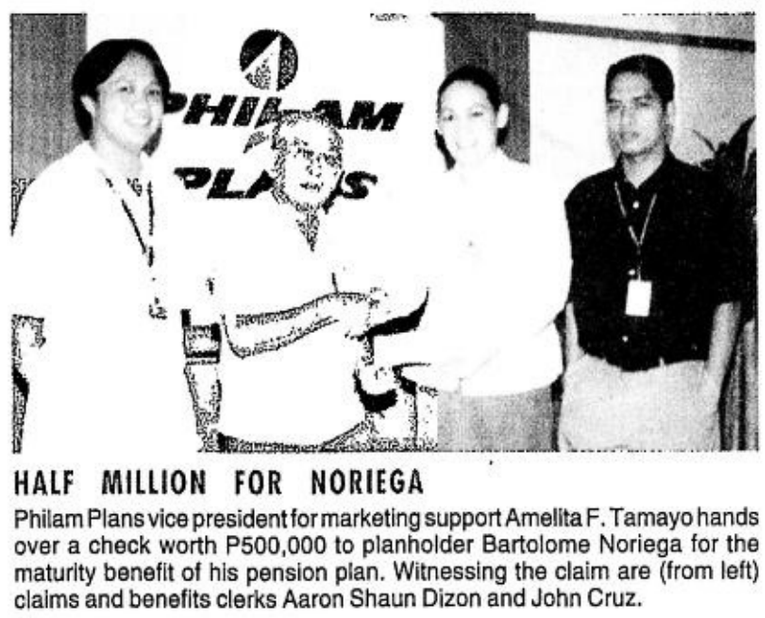
Mansfield International Inc. (MII), maker of Hanford Sport and other quality undergarments, recently extended the image model contract of Carlos Agassi, the Amir of Rap, for its premier brand. Agassi will be featured in Hanford Sport's latest ad campaign in print, TV and outdoor. Shown (from left) is Patrick Limdico, MII's Hanford brand assistant, Lovelle Sy, MII's marketing manager, Agassi and Roy Navarro, MII's sales manager.

PCC Alumni Association

THE PASIG Catholic College Alumni Association Inc., in cooperation with the Pasig City government and the Immaculate Conception Parish, announces the holding of a "Lakad-Alay" or people's walk and an "Alay sa Kalikasan" tree planting activity on Feb. 10. The mass hike, which starts at 5 a.m. at the Eusebio Quadrangle at the Pasig City Hall Complex ends at the Rain Forest Park in Maybunga, Pasig where the tree planting will follow. The association is launching this event to raise a P5-million trust fund for the benefit of the less-privileged.

The project, dubbed "Lakad-Alay 2002," has for its theme "Para Sa Kalikasan, Kabataan at Komunidad, Kapit-bisig" and it will be in support of the Association's core programs, which are: a financial aid assistance program for needy but deserving students; to support the school outreach programs for the needy communities; for financial help to those in need who are entering the life of the religious as priests and nuns; and for a sustainable faculty development program for the continuing improvement in the quality of education of the school.

While the walk is primarily a fund-raising event, it also raises awareness on the plight of the disadvantaged, especially of the youth. In addition, it seeks to promote environment concern, physical fitness, and social responsibility among the citizenry. Most importantly, Lakad-Alay 2002 shall demonstrate the need for effective partnership between the public and private sectors in promoting the general welfare. The association appeals to its members and other socio-civic organizations to support them in their goal of making the community a better place to live in and in building foundations of hope for the less fortunate among us. For particulars call Rosario Caguingin at the PCC Alumni Office through 641-7544 and 642-7967.



HALF MILLION FOR NORIEGA

Philam Plans vice president for marketing support Amelita F. Tamayo hands over a check worth P500,000 to planholder Bartolome Noriega for the maturity benefit of his pension plan. Witnessing the claim are (from left) claims and benefits clerks Aaron Shaun Dizon and John Cruz.

BEEFEATER BARTENDING WINNERS

Cebu White Sand's Kenneth Follrestad (left), Manila's National Sports Grill's Regina Mercado, and Baguio student Michael Balagot won third, second and first place respectively at the 1st Beefeater International Bartender's Competition (BIBC). Follrestad and Balagot were awarded cash prizes and appreciation trophies while Mercado won the coveted Beefeater trophy and an all-expense paid trip to Copenhagen, Denmark where she will be pitting bartending skills against the world's best at the 5th BIBC tilt. Mercado bested Follrestad and Balagot over-all in the four-part testing bout, including an impressive flaretending exhibition that also earned her the title Beefeater Ambassador.

Get a US computer education . . .

(From page C4)

University and Ateneo de Manila University, but considerably less than the fees of an American school like Princeton University.

iAcademy is set to take in some 250 to 300 students in its campus at the Bankers Center beside the Enterprise Center along Ayala Avenue in its first year. It has enough resources to accommodate 1,100 students, and it hopes to have this many in four years.

Like its parent firm, iAcademy will mainly be a computer school, with courses in digital arts, electronic commerce, software engineering and network engineering.

The faculty will all be Filipinos who will be supervised by instructors at CTE.

"The curriculum and courses reside on the Internet. We then certify the faculty to make sure that they are comfortable with the technical material that they will be teaching and, equally important, will be familiar with the best techniques, especially in communicating to their students," says Miller.

He says instructors from CTE will be in touch with the iAcademy faculty several times a week to review what's going on in their classes, offer suggestions and answer questions.

"Not only to do we create the curriculum or prepare faculty members, but throughout the delivery of the courses, we're there to support the faculty members, and this is indeed the heart of our quality control," he says.

iAcademy has sent two of its instructors to CTE's Pittsburgh campus to familiarize themselves with CTE's curriculum and the techniques.

Greenspan says discrimination is bad business

OAKLAND, California—Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan said on Thursday that discrimination in lending and other aspects of financial life simply makes for bad business.

Speaking to a group that aims to increase opportunities for poorer and disadvantaged Americans, the Fed chief said that investors and lenders should realize they hurt themselves and society when some economic sectors are treated unfairly.

"In the end, costs are higher, less real output is produced and national wealth accumulation is slowed," Greenspan told several hundred participants at a "Greenlining 2002" economic summit.

He said it was important that regulators "make further progress in establishing business relationships between the financial services sector and the rapidly growing number of minority- and women-owned businesses.

Greenspan's speech did not touch on the outlook for the US economy nor on or monetary policy ahead, instead following closely to the theme that businesses and investors harm themselves by not looking at opportunities offered by minority firms.

"By removing the non-economic distortions that arise as a result of discrimination, we can generate higher returns to human capital and other productive resources," he said.

On Friday, the Fed chief is to deliver a speech on the economy before a group of business leaders in San Francisco—his first substantive remarks on the economic outlook since last October. *Reuters*

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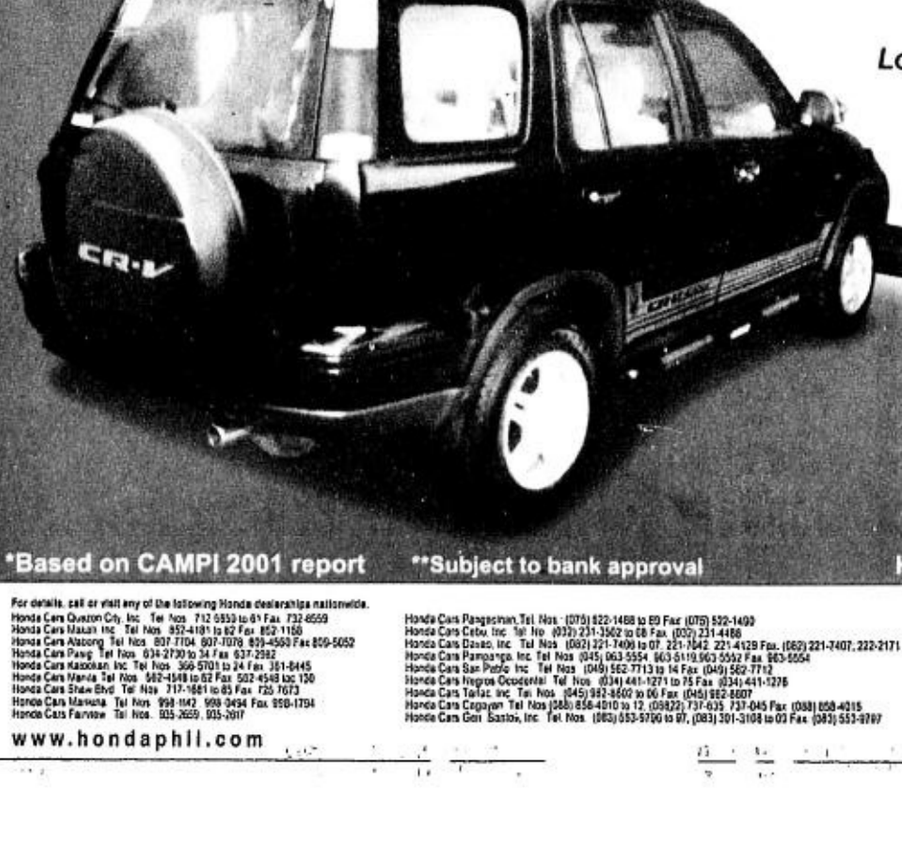

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HONDA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER — MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2002

BUSINESSMonday

Costing your product, simply

BY SALVADOR I. SIBAYAN
U.P. ISSI

RATHER than join the Christmas rush, some of you may have opted for food specialties to give as gifts. Very likely, you sourced these from home-based entrepreneurs who make one, two, or three excellent products.

GOING INTO BUSINESS

Possibly, the prices they charged were based on the cost of materials they directly used for their products. With this cost, they applied a percentage of say 40 to 100 percent. They hope it's enough for them to recover their other costs—and provide them with reasonable profits. It's a simple formula—based only on raw material costs.

This brings us to the second cost component—the labor used in making the product. This involves the cost of those employees who work directly with the product being made. If they are paid by the piece, then determining labor cost should not be too much of a problem. But if they are being paid per day, then you need to get their daily wage and divide this by the average number of units they can make per day. Remember I said average. If you used less than the average output, you'll end up charging a higher labor cost per unit which adds to the final price of the product.

If you used more than the average volume, you'll be charging a lower labor cost per unit—and a lower final price. But then, you may not recover the cost of your daily paid workers—because their output (all of which you expect to sell) remains average.

If you are operating from your kitchen, very likely you never bothered to cost for using your oven or kitchen utensils or for the use of your electricity or LPG—thinking that your price mark-up will be more than enough.

This third cost component is what accountants call factory overhead. What happens when you turn a part-time business into a full-time one? Aside from expanding your output, you also increase your need for raw materials and direct labor. And this decision also increases the number of items in your factory overhead that indirectly help you in the manufacture of your product. Again, you have to work based on average output. These items include:

- **Indirect materials,** such as office supplies including official receipts, purchase orders, delivery receipts, and possibly even stock cards
- **Indirect labor,** which includes supervision, inspection and factory clerks
- **Other indirect expenses,** such as rent, insurance, depreciation of tools and equipment, taxes, repairs and maintenance, light and power

Direct Materials	
green saba	P 6.00
refined sugar	1.08
cooking oil	1.45
plastic packaging	1.05
	P 9.58
Direct Labor	(none)
Overhead	
LPG (estimated)	1.00
Total cost to make 30 ten-gram packs	P 10.58

By way of illustration, let us assume you're going to make 30 ten-gram packs of banana chips on order in your home kitchen. *(See table above.)*

What happens when you outgrow your kitchen and go commercial? Then your cost structure will probably look like this. *(See table at right.)*

When your business becomes a commercial activity, you have more cost items to consider. But you should be able to produce at lower unit costs because of volume discounts in purchases of raw materials and operating efficiencies.

So whether you operate your business from your home or commercial kitchen, your production cost consists of three components: direct materials, direct labor, and factory overhead. When you've considered all three and set a selling price per unit, let's hope that there's enough sales volume (and margin) to cover the additional expenses of selling and administration. Why is this so? Because at commercial operations, you will need sales reps, clerks, bookkeepers and accountants. And these are not part of your manufacturing operations.

(Please check out the UP ISSI training on "Start Your Own Business" in February. Call Mila Labrador at 9287076 or 9266316.)

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cooking oil	
plastic packaging	
+ Direct Labor	
wages of factory workers	
+ Factory Overhead	
supervisor's salary	
factory supplies	
rent	
insurance	
LPG	
light and water	
depreciation of factory equipment	
repairs and maintenance	
= Total Factory Cost	
+ Administrative Expenses	
office salaries	
rent	
telephone	
and postage	
office supplies	
+ Selling and Distribution	
sales salaries	
and commissions	
advertising	
product samples	
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delivery expenses	
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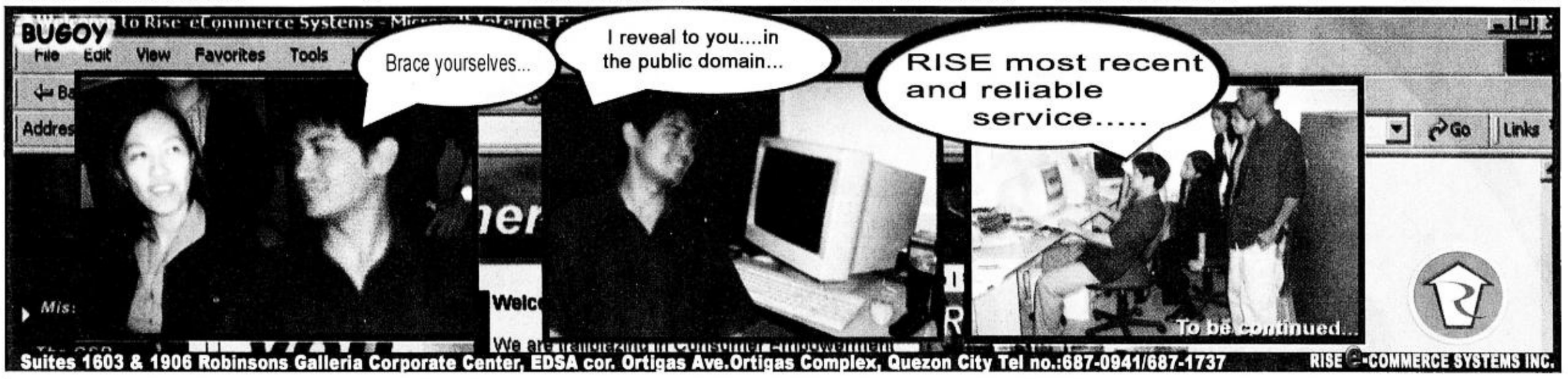

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Arts & Design

A neglected master returns

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

Jose Mendoza, creator of many of the marvelous structures in Rizal Park, displays an artistic evolution that is authoritative and painstaking

JOSE Mendoza's name may hardly ring a bell among today's "brand-conscious" art patrons, but the sculptor's works have most likely become part of many a Filipino's life since childhood. Mendoza is holding his first one-man show of mixed media pieces in bronze, stainless steel and glass at the SM Megamall's Crucible Gallery.

"Coming up with such pieces was costly and fraught with logistical problems," says the soft-spoken artist in Filipino. "Nevertheless, I'm happy with the results. I was able to fully express myself through new media, something I wasn't fully able to explore while doing commissioned work."

A NEGLECTED/ p.D2

"LIBERATION," stainless steel and glass

"SHADOW," stainless steel, glass and resin

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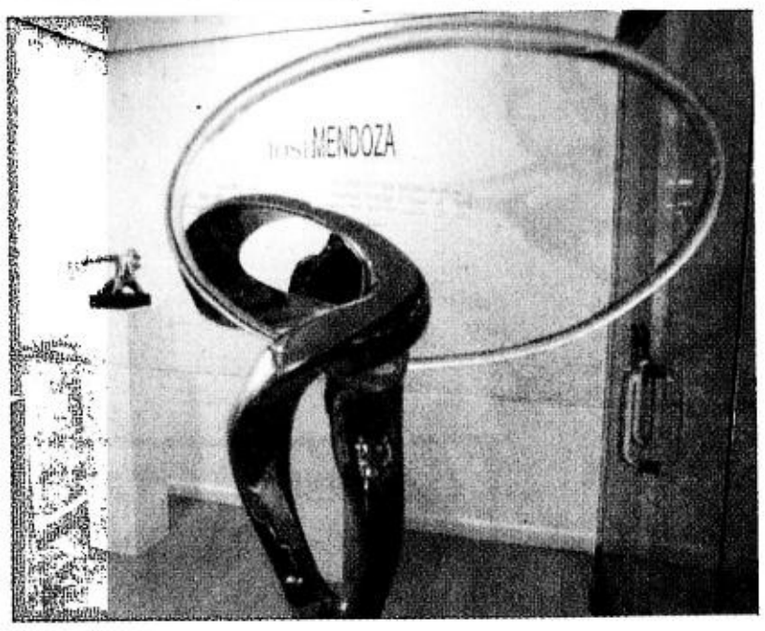


"HULA-HOOP," stainless steel and glass

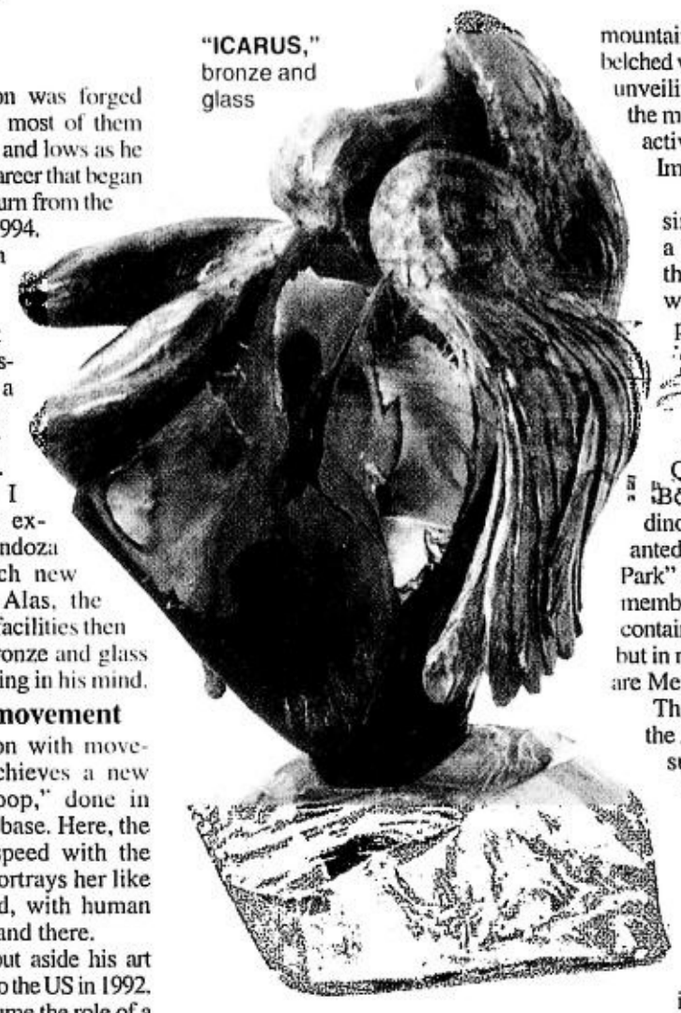
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

A neglected master returns

(From page D1)

The 12-piece collection was forged during a two-year period, most of them mirroring the artist's highs and lows as he marked a transition in his career that began in earnest soon after his return from the United States some time in 1994.

"Icarus, the Fallen Angel," writes Madrid-based writer Maria Salva Limbo, is executed in cast bronze, along a more expressionistic line lying on a huge, rough-hewn, black glass resting on a smaller rough-hewn green glass. "It represents the years I wasn't productive," he explains. Like Icarus, Mendoza wanted to fly and reach new heights through glass. Alas, the country had no adequate facilities then to allow him to do the bronze and glass sculptures that were brewing in his mind.



"ICARUS," bronze and glass

Fascination with movement

Mendoza's fascination with movement, writes Limbo, achieves a new dimension in "Hula-hoop," done in stainless steel on a glass base. Here, the figure achieves super speed with the hoop, and the sculptor portrays her like a Moebius strip or band, with human parts recognizable here and there.

Ironically, Mendoza put aside his art when he and his wife flew to the US in 1992. He was all set to fully assume the role of a baker until boredom set in. Three decades of fashioning award-winning pieces in bronze and concrete were simply too difficult to cast aside. Kneading bread and baking cakes, even if they allowed him to inject some creativity, weren't for him.

"I dropped everything and decided to enroll at the San Jose State University," says Mendoza, a fine arts graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas. He supplemented his knowledge in bronze, much of it learned under National Artist Napoleon Abueva, with informal classes in casting and blowing glass. He also apprenticed under David Ruth, a renowned American glass sculptor based in the West Coast.

In turn, Mendoza shared with Ruth everything he knew about bronze. The American had been initially cool to Mendoza when he first came knocking on his door. Aside from being a relative unknown, Mendoza found it difficult to express himself—until now—not only in English but also in Filipino.

"I returned the next day with a portfolio of my work," he says. "That caught his attention." Well, who wouldn't be? Mendoza, together with the late journalist Teodoro Valencia, had been responsible for turning the Rizal Park into an ideal attraction starting in the '60s.

As its resident artist, Mendoza designed and oversaw such landmarks as the relief map of the Philippines and "Bisig," an abstract piece across Maria Orosa Street that brought Mendoza much acclaim. Sadly, the white, stalactite-like figure that used to spin and dangle from the main black piece had mysteriously disappeared with time and neglect.

"I enjoyed doing the relief map," he says. "It allowed me to merge the figurative with the abstract." Mendoza refers to his interpretation of the country's rugged topography, including major rivers, mountains and active volcanoes that once belched with smoke. Once, during the map's unveiling, he had to place dry ice under the mini volcanoes to simulate volcanic activity in time for then First Lady Imelda Marcos' arrival.

"I soon devised other ways to simulate an eruption," he says with a chuckle: "Much like in real life, the rivers sometimes overflowed when it rained, flooding certain parts of the country."

Figurative gems

He also did such figurative gems as the Carabao and Tamaraw, two bronze figures before the Quirino Grandstand on Roxas Boulevard. His concrete but lifelike dinosaurs at the Children's Playground antedated Steven Spielberg's "Jurassic Park" and "Lost World" by 20 years. Remember those trashcans made to look like containers fashioned from young bamboo but in reality are made of concrete? Those are Mendoza's creations, too.

The '70s saw Mendoza working with the Ayalas. His monuments glorifying such Philippine heroes as Gabriela Silang, Pio del Pilar and Sultan Kudarat (not Lapu-Lapu, he insists) grace the financial district's major thoroughfares. Mendoza did find a venue for expressing himself and earning recognition for it through the Art Association of the Philippines' annual competition.

A NEGLECTED/ p.D3

JOSE Mendoza in his Quezon City studio

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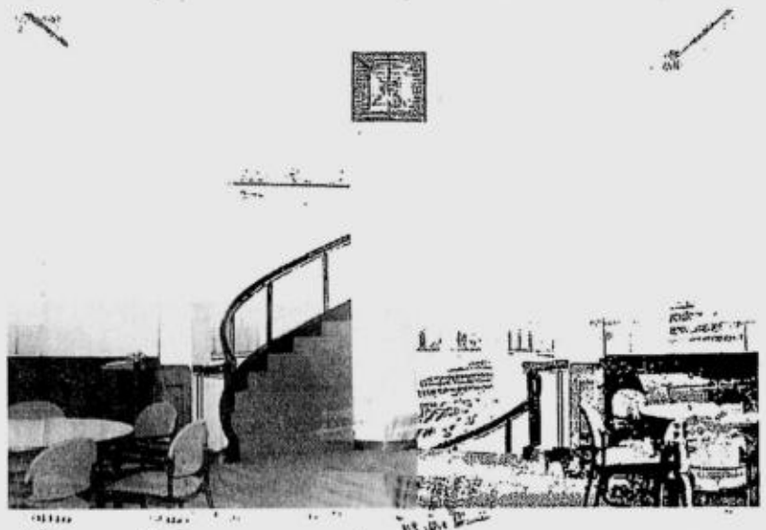

THE SPIRAL staircase at the back end of the building leads down to the Main Reference Library and up to the Tower Room.

IN THIS photo taken in 1947, officials of the Philippine Air Lines (PAL) gather before a flight at the Nielson Tower.

Filipinas Heritage Library building shows way to adaptive reuse

WHAT has become today's Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati Avenue used to be Nielson Tower, Manila's first air terminal. From its construction in 1937, the terminal saw the national aviation industry during its infancy until the post-World War II years. The two runways that serviced the former airport are now Paseo de Roxas and Ayala Avenue. Together with Makati Avenue, where the terminal was located, the two runways formed a triangular area that now is known as the Ayala Triangle. In 1948 the terminal relocated. The next year, the structure became the offices of the Integrated Property Management Corp. and the headquarters of the Ayala police detachment. From the late 1970s-1994, the structure became an exclusive restaurant aptly called Nielson Tower. It then became the Filipinas Heritage Library with Leandro V. Locsin and Partners as principal architects and Architects International of the United States as consultants.

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

The Filipinas Heritage Library crosses into 2002 with a bounty of good feelings, and rightly so. The past year was a grand one for its building, which received two awards (one national and the other international) for the successful reuse of the original airport structure into a library.

The first award came in July of 2001. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts cited it for "being a remarkable illustration of cultural conservation through adaptive reuse manifested in the architecture of the library." It won the top award in the category for Outstanding Cultural Conservation Program Category for Adaptive Reuse. On that basis, the NCCA presented the Filipinas Heritage Library with the Alab ng Haraya Award. It was further lauded for having contributed to "elevating people's understanding of the need to preserve and study the nation's heritage and has stood as clear proof of the power of foresight."

Second award

A few months later, the Filipinas Heritage Library received its second award, this time an honorable mention from the Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in the UN body's Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

"The impressive conversion of one of Asia's earliest airports into a heritage library represents a major achievement in preserving an important era of Manila's history," the Unesco said. "Historical events and architecture are exemplified in the legacy of the structure and in the excellent choice to continue its livelihood as an educational facility. In a time of rapid urban development and expansion, the Nielson Tower is an excellent model for others to follow on how to appropriately re-adapt historic structures in the community."

The congratulatory message noted, "The conservation experts who composed the panel were very satisfied to see the restoration effort in your project and hope that it will continue in the future to reflect the same deliberate approach used in restoration." Unesco expressed optimism that the project would encourage heritage conservation efforts in the region.

The Unesco Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards drew 40 entries from 13 countries in the Asia Pacific, including eight commercial buildings, five cultural facilities, an educational facility, three historic sites, seven hospitality sites, 15 religious buildings and a residential building. Aside from the former Nielson Tower, the Philippines put forward other entries: the Balay Negrense in Silay City, the Fule-Malvar Mansion in San Pablo City, the Orchid Garden Suites in Manila and the Zaragoza residence in Vigan.

The highest Unesco award for 2001 went to the National Archives Building in Jakarta that won the Award of Excellence. The 300-year-old Indonesian landmark colonial structure was restored and converted into a downtown cultural center that eventually stimulated the rebirth of the decaying historic district where it is located. The adaptive reuse of Bushell's Tea Warehouse in Sydney, Australia, into an office building and the restoration of the Krishnan Temple, Punjab, India, also received two awards of distinction.

Adaptive reuse of heritage buildings is not new. Nielson Tower, like all heritage buildings, is an example that structures tend to outlive their original function. Going back into history, the former Roman arena at Nimes (France) became a small, fortified town in the early Middle Ages. Diocletian's palace in Split (Croatia) was vast enough to be turned into a cathedral and the core of the town's housing district. The central portion of the Grand Mosque in Cordoba (Spain) was converted into a baroque cathedral in the 16th century. These examples continue today. The pattern for adapting old buildings for new uses lasted until the Industrial Revolution of the late 19th century.

And then the fashion changed. Demolishing the old and building anew became the trend that continued to escalate until the post-World War II period that brought about widespread destruction of old buildings. Old meant anti-progress, while new buildings, no matter that most of the new architecture was inferior to the old, were seen as testimonies of development. That is the mindset existing in the Philippines today.

It was only in 1967 when the British Civic Amenities Act required local authorities to designate conservation areas, recognizing there was more to conservation than just looking after individual buildings of architectural and historical importance. However, it took a few more years before the public realized that conservation should not be limited to individual buildings but to groups of structures. The public did not realize the wisdom of the Civic Amenities Act until many years later, when it saw the repeated loss of entire neighborhoods and streets containing a series of familiar landmarks being replaced by low-quality architecture. That was when the public realized that the identity of their cities was vanishing.

Principle

The guiding principle for adaptive reuse was written over 25 years ago. Article 5 of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites (Icomos) Venice Charter states that "The conservation of monuments is always facilitated by finding ways to make use of them for some socially useful purpose. Such adaptive reuse is therefore desirable, but it must not change the layout or decoration of the building. It is within these limits only that modifications demanded by a change of function should be envisaged and may be permitted."

In renovating the former Nielson Tower into the Filipinas Heritage Library, the Icomos principles for adaptive reuse were closely followed. The Art Deco form of the original structure was maintained. The architectural design was carefully retained. Whatever was left of the ornamentation of the exterior was not removed, and restored where necessary. Most of the interior partitions remained: the lobby was transformed into an information center and bookshop; the former terminal's waiting lounge became the main reading room; and the old control tower was fitted out as a glass-walled function room. Although Nielson is now used as a library, its history as one of Asia's first airports continues to be proudly illustrated with the framed archival photographs on its walls.

To accommodate the space needed for a research library, the existing basement that was formerly used as the restaurant's kitchen was expanded. So as not to disturb the existing foundations, the basement was expanded toward the rear of the building, under what was formerly the tarmac area. The basement was provided with a very tight envelope and an efficient water drainage system to protect it from changes in temperature and humidity, from air pollutants, dust, exposure to natural light, and most important for research and library functions, from leaks and flooding. Since there was no natural lighting, the best new technology available was used to provide a new lighting system with particular attention paid to the amount, intensity and quality of light. The best technology available was used.

As the Nielson Tower example successfully shows, old buildings can be adapted for new uses. Furthermore, new technology can be used to update an old building to serve its new requirements efficiently. Most of all, Nielson Tower shows not only that adaptive reuse is beginning to take root in the Philippines, it shows that our examples of recycling old buildings for new uses employ international standards.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph

THE NIELSON Tower still bears the sign "Manila International Air Terminal" at the rear of the building. The Nielson Tower functioned as the control tower and passenger terminal of the Nielson Airport.

The Nielson Tower conservation shows new technology can be used to update an old building

THE MAIN hallway leading from the lobby was transformed into a photo gallery called The Alcove. The gallery exclusively features black-and-white photographs.

A neglected master returns

(From page D2)

Armed with a newfound skill in glass and spurred by years of unsatisfied hunger to express himself, Mendoza soon buckled down to work upon his return from the US. To date, he has several commissioned artworks such as the Risen Christ at the Magallanes Church, monument of peace and unity in Davao and the "Liberation," a stainless steel and glass piece that now graces the lobby of the new Insular Life building in Alabang.

A model of the stylized birds also in stainless steel mounted on a cylindrical glass base has also been included in his exhibit at Crucible. "Liberation" is the only nonhuman subject in the collection. It depicts freedom, wrote Limbo, in its abstract and literal sense. Both doves are arranged as if they're circling each other before taking off.

Part of Mendoza's earnings from his recent commissioned artworks went into his 12-piece collection, which undoubtedly will also find its proper place in many an art lover's home.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

"FREEDOM," bronze and glass

Print exhibit at CCP

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Printmakers presents its annual exhibit of competition entries at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Gallery until today.

Being the prime mover of graphic arts in the Philippines, the PAP, since its foundation in 1968 through the pioneering efforts of Manuel Rodriguez Sr. and other printmakers, initiated the regular event as a program for artistic excellence.

The competition has since proven to be an important force in the promotion and popularization of printmaking in the country. This year, Benjie Torrado Cabrera's "World Wide Web," an asymmetrical composition of big morphic forms using engraving on acrylic plastic sheet, got the grand prize. The other finalists are "Balik Tanaw" by Carlito Casamayor, "Snake Dance" by Jalenie Chua, "Teritoryo II" by Mideo M. Cruz, "Day Dream" by Janet Eason, "Buto" by Noel Ferraris, "Ngayon, Bukas at sa Pagbabalik" by Wilfredo Labana, "Kalikasan" by Mischelle Magdasoc, "Waiting Woman" by Carmen Soini and "Anticipation" by Bernard Temporosa.

PRINT leader Raul Isidro

This year, the competition is sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and supported by the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The PAP is headed by Raul Isidro who intends to continue the group's traveling exhibit and workshop, which had been brought to 10 different destinations in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The other officers are Jess Flores, vice president; Ambie Abano, secretary; Amy Soini, treasurer; Benjie T. Cabrera, auditor, and Chis Bayani, public relations.

The board is composed of Adi Baen Santos, Rhoda Recto, Al Perez, Don Artamas and Bernard Tempgrosa while ex-officio officers are Pandy Aviado and Fil Delacruz. The workshop is located at the back of the Folk Arts Theater, CCP Complex, with mailing address 5900 Matilde St., Makati City.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

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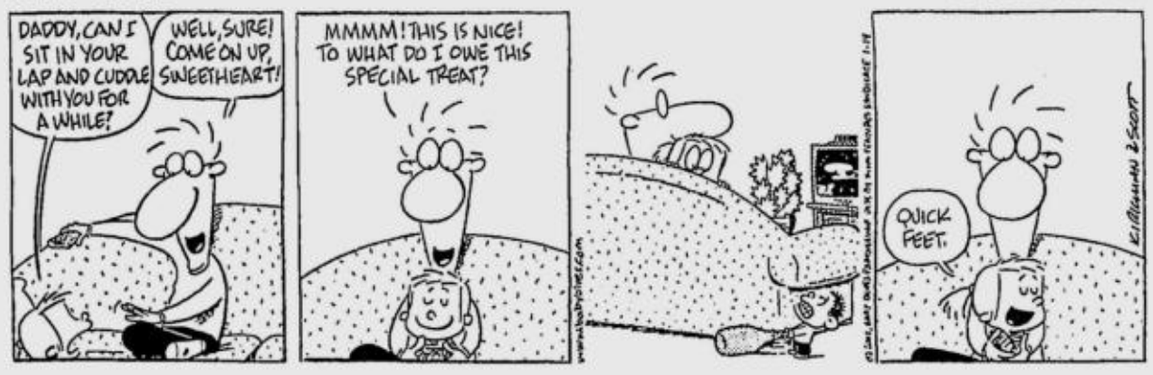
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL CUISON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Bateman, Faye Dunaway, LL COOL J

Happy Birthday: Do whatever is necessary to ensure that you will get the power and control you need to follow through with your ideas. You will have to focus on your best assets and let others know just how ready, willing and able you are. Your numbers are 10, 13, 22, 28, 31, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your open-minded attitude will help you get where you want to go today. You can turn your ideas into cash by following through with your ideas.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take it easy and let others do all the fetching. Someone may lead you astray if you make a hasty decision, so sit back and observe what everyone else is doing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you can say no you will do just fine today. You will have no trouble finding out the information required to finish a project that you already began.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Taking care of your investments or personal papers should be on your agenda today. If someone has borrowed something from you, ask for its return.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put all your efforts into joint ventures. Your ability to take control and find a suitable way to make gains will be admired by your partner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your efforts should be helping you to get ahead with your work. Your strong sense of duty and desire to do well will enable you to move in a positive direction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You should be ready for just about anything today. If you have planned your actions well, you won't be subject to stress and fatigue.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You should listen to what experienced individuals have to say. The information you receive could very well help you avoid a mistake.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Greater interaction with others will lead to some interesting proposals. Added responsibilities may be daunting at first but as you start to get into what it is that you have to accomplish you will find it easier than you anticipated.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let your indecisiveness lead you astray today. You may be considering changing your professional direction but make sure that you have a game plan before you start.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Clear your mind of any thought of getting involved in secret matters. Complications will develop if you are not true to yourself and honest with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can expect to have some difficulties if dealing with government agencies. If you are dealing with someone on a one-to-one basis be sure to do a little research first.

Birthday Baby: You will express yourself through your earning potential. You will be structured, focused and practical. You will be possessive of your belongings; therefore you will work hard to keep what you have.

DAILY CROSSWORD

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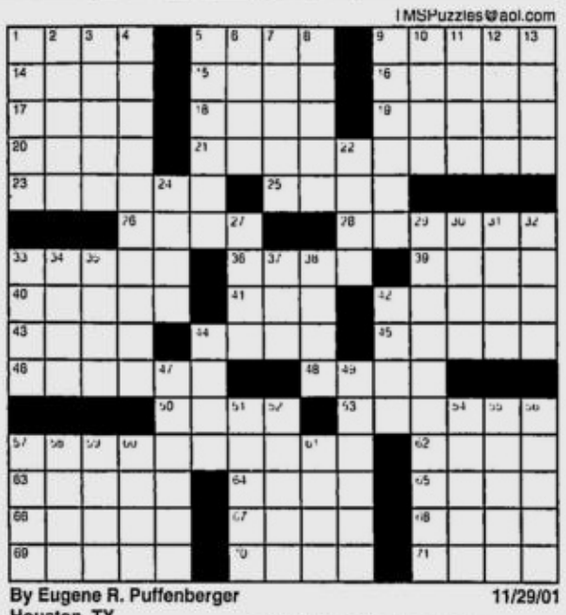

ACROSS
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5 Strong wind
9 Up, in baseball
14 Zeno of __
15 Cosmonaut Gagarin
16 Rental contract
17 One Baldwin
18 Israel's airline
19 SDI weapon
20 Merry spree
21 Mr. Moose's movie?
23 City west of Charlotte
25 Checked out
26 Cassini of fashion
28 Witty reply
33 Express a view
36 Baking box
39 Musical medley
40 "A la Recherche du temps __"
41 Be indisposed
42 Slander
43 End of switch?
44 Unfortunately!
45 Pathogenic bacteria
46 Griffin and Irene
48 A Guthrie
50 Isinglass
53 Totally wrong
57 Mr. Deer who avoids responsibility?
62 Traditional knowledge
63 Video-game pioneer
64 Magnet end
65 Reitman or Lendl
66 Tropical ungulate
67 Black cuckoos
68 Monster's loch
69 The ones here
70 Orderly
71 Dundee dagger

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3 Tractor maker
4 Mr. Rabbit's favorite author?
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9 Hint at
10 Rend
11 Wild party
12 On a cruise
13 In-office duration
22 Bruce or Laura
24 Cordon __
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29 Mr. Turkey's cocktail?
30 Bread spread
31 Iranian money
32 Spelling of "Trick"
33 Opinion page, briefly
34 Lima's land
35 Links' club
37 By way of
38 Adamson's lioness
42 Market
44 Vast landmass
47 Magnate's purview
49 Least cooked
51 Channel of politicos
52 In unison
54 Interlaced
55 Expunge
56 Nerve-racking
57 Cotton of poor quality
58 Beehive State
59 Promontory
60 Singer Kristofferson
61 Director Kazan

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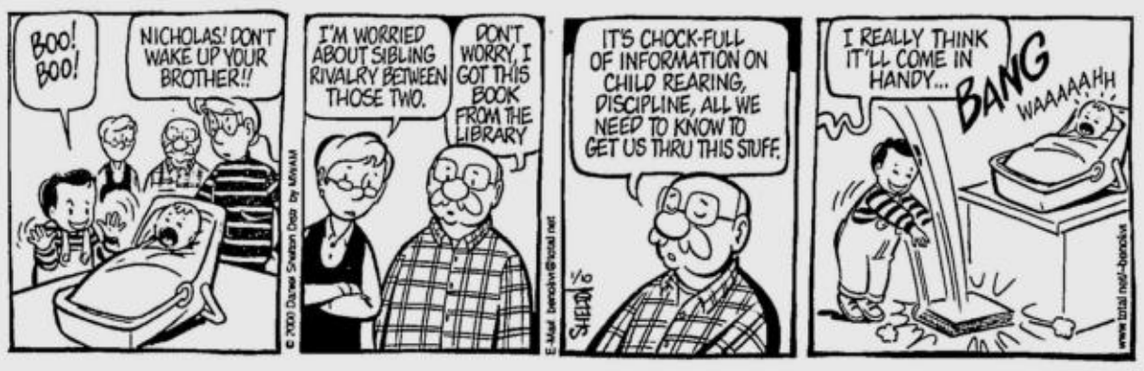

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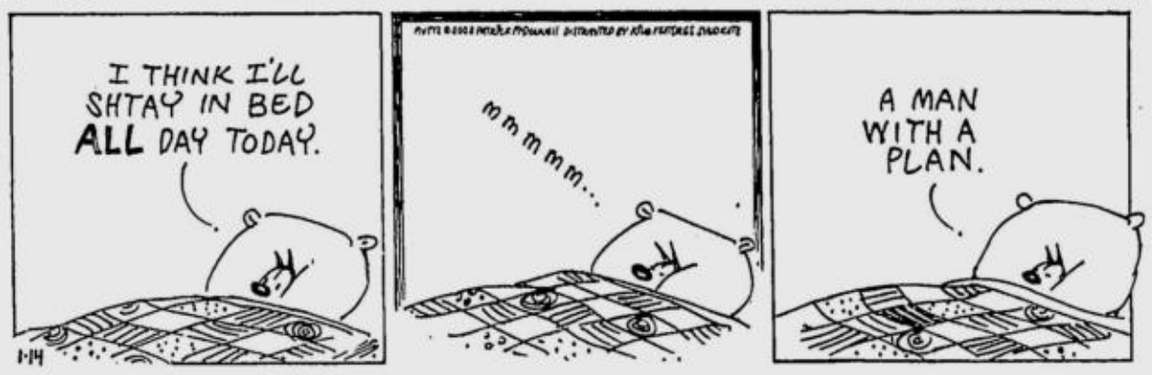


KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TITO MILAMBILING

Escora at Big and Small, Salvador at West-Glorietta, 'Faith and City' at MET

KIKO Escora documents the mall lifestyle in "Deviant Slice" at the Big and Small Art Co of SM Megamall until Jan. 22. The artist looks at the mall as expressions of brand consciousness and even sexual taboos. He says the show is about people and relationships in an urban setting. Call 373-3365 to 66.

SALVADOR AT WEST. Juni Salvador presents his latest set of drawings in "Still Life and Other Matters" at the West Gallery (3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati) on Jan. 17-29. While Salvador wants to retain the spontaneity of the original drawings, his input as an artist come into play with the fluidity of the finished images, equally exerting control and letting the images take shape on their own. He uses very little color, preferring, he says, to keep things simple, very basic yet veering away from the traditional way of art making. He calls it "painting with pencil." Call 752-7028 to 29.

VISUAL ARTS

MET EXHIBIT. The Filipino exhibit "Faith and the City" returns to Manila. Curated by Valentine Willie of Malaysia, it showcases the works of Ang Kiukok, Santiago Bose and Elmer Borlongan and focuses on the use of religious imagery as commentary on contemporary society. The city as a center for religious devotion is the other dominant theme. On view at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila until March 15.

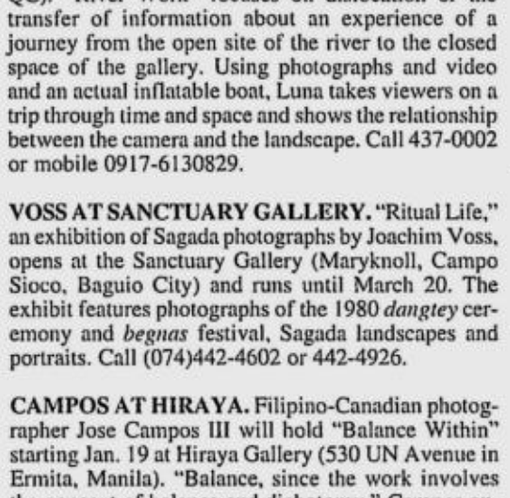
LUNA AT BIG SKY MIND. Butch Luna will mount a solo exhibit of installation, photographs and video on Jan. 20, at Big Sky Mind (66B Dona Juana Rodriguez St. [formerly Broadway], New Manila, QC). "River Work" focuses on dislocation or the transfer of information about an experience of a journey from the open site of the river to the closed space of the gallery. Using photographs and video and an actual inflatable boat, Luna takes viewers on a trip through time and space and shows the relationship between the camera and the landscape. Call 437-0002 or mobile 0917-6130829.

VOSS AT SANCTUARY GALLERY. "Ritual Life," an exhibition of Sagada photographs by Joachim Voss, opens at the Sanctuary Gallery (Maryknoll, Campo Sioco, Baguio City) and runs until March 20. The exhibit features photographs of the 1980 *dangtey* ceremony and *begnas* festival, Sagada landscapes and portraits. Call (074)442-4602 or 442-4926.

CAMPOS AT HIRAYA. Filipino-Canadian photographer Jose Campos III will hold "Balance Within" starting Jan. 19 at Hiraya Gallery (530 UN Avenue in Ermita, Manila). "Balance, since the work involves the concept of balance and dichotomy," Campos explains. "Within, since what I've come up with is a body of work that is internalized." The exhibit runs until Jan. 31.

SENA WORKSHOP. Fernando B. Sena will conduct an art workshop starting Jan. 16, from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Jorge B. Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC. Lessons include basic and advanced techniques in drawing and painting varied subjects and mediums. Call 928-1927 and 920-5301, local 7407/7408, 924-64-25 and 925-88-01.

FABER-CASTELL WORKSHOP. Faber-Castell will hold a series of children's art workshops and activities for free. For schools interested in hosting the workshops, call Jane Ebarle of Faber-Castell at 361-7391 to 92. Elementary pupils may join the Little Masters Club of Faber-Castell. Call 361-7391to 92.



"STILL Life Series 2, Blue Mantel" by Juni Salvador

REGHIS Romero and Irmgard Krepela were guests of honor of the Makati Artist Guild, a group which recently held an art exhibit at the Fort. Also in photo are Mardy Aguilar and Lily Wuzela.

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INDUSTRIAL artist and painter Victor Bella, who graduated fine arts in Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts, Holland, opens a new a series of weekend art courses titled "Arts Aspiration Series for Fun, Gift Giving and Profit."

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Theology-happy Miriam Santiago shoots down Edsa II

BY LITO B. ZULUETA

EDSA II was a scam perpetrated by the rich who are historically corrupt. It was a coup d'état that was given legal and constitutional validity by the Supreme Court in "an act of judicial exegesis more dangerous than edifying." It was a debacle for the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) because the bishops failed to appreciate the principle of Christian love and trained their "apocalyptic virulence" at Joseph Estrada to oust him "using any and all means."

REVIEW

Want some more? Then read Miriam Defensor Santiago's self-published "Christianity Versus Corruption: Political Theology from the Third World" (Worldview Publications, 2001). Starting as a dissertation on political theology (the former senator is an M.A. in Religious Studies candidate at the Maryhill School of Theology in Quezon City), it becomes an *apologia pro Estrada et Santiago* written in the tongue-twisting, ear-splitting prose tradition of the

Miriam Defensor Santiago School of Stylistics.

The Estrada downfall is really just a case study in an otherwise longish 260-plus-page book that applies recent theological investigations and currents on the homegrown problem of untrammeled corruption. The theological part is quite sound surprisingly because Santiago has benefited from two developments in her theological education. First, her training at Maryhill, an emerging center of progressive theology (sometimes too progressive) which has posed a challenge to the supremacy of the two dominant schools in the country, the Jesuits' Loyola and the Dominicans' Santo Tomas Ecclesiastical Faculties. Second, Miriam's visiting law fellowships at Cambridge in 1999 and at Oxford in 2000, post-Edsa II, where, she does not fail to remind us, was born the Oxford Movement that sparked the Catholic revival in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

THE FORMER senator and her theological and political gun at corruption and her enemies in her book

Santiago had apparently made her stay at Oxbridge theologically fruitful by raiding their libraries and buttressing her bibliography with the books in their collections and published by their presses. Together with the liberation theology readings provided her by the ICM fathers of Maryhill, she has compiled quite a reading list, so much so that her book can be taken as a compendium of authoritative annotations on the latest in political theology.

Involved theology

And so we can only fully agree with her that theology should be involved and engaged. "An existential and personal theology will remain a mere abstract, unless it understands existence as a political problem, and understands that existence is often entangled in social vicissitudes," she writes. "Unless political theology exercises its critical and controlling function, it will be marginalized by social and political theories. Such an abstract political theology will be a mere virtual theology that proclaims, but lacks, real power."

The problem is how to apply theology to social and political issues. In the case of Santiago's thesis, theology can only work only after the sociological and economic bases of corruption are firmly established. Unfortunately, while Santiago is equipped to theologize (she correctly takes recourse to biblical revelation and theological tradition to establish theological teaching), she is wanting in social analysis. This is surprising considering her background in education, politics and jurisprudence. At the

THEOLOGY-HAPPY/ p.E2

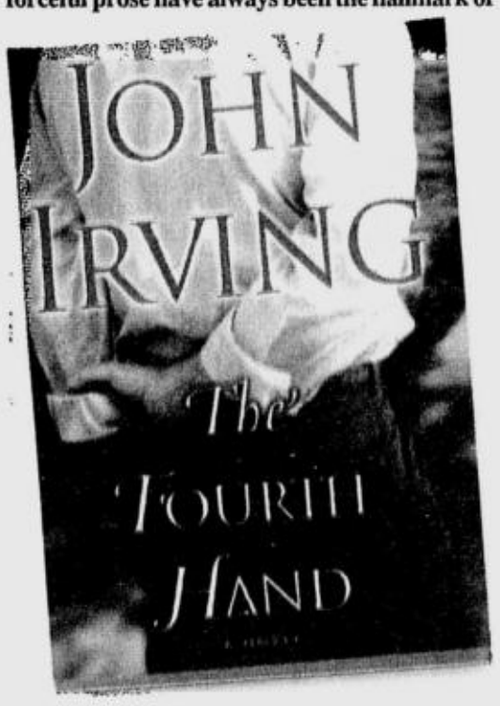
The man with the doggone hand

The Fourth Hand
By John Irving
Random House, New York, 2001, 316 pages

BY RUEL S. DE VERA
Contributor

ONCE readers find out that "The Fourth Hand" is the latest book from John Irving, they will no longer be surprised to learn that the novel is about a TV anchorman who loses his hand in a lion attack only to have a new one surgically attached by a dog that eats its own feces. A charming absurdity, potent pathos and forceful prose have always been the hallmark of Irving's fiction, from "A Prayer for Owen Meany" to "The Cider House Rules." Perhaps the most tantalizing note would have been provided by the complex but thoughtful behemoth that is "A Widow for One Year," Irving's last novel.

REVIEW



Mixing together tragedy, fertility, fidelity and football, John Irving's newest novel has its moments but fumbles the ball in the end zone

True to form, "The Fourth Hand" takes one absurd idea and then quickly latches other absurd ideas on it. The unfortunate TV anchor is Patrick Wallingford, likeable and handsome, but also easily given to sexual encounters yet is hopeless in long-term relationships. His career no longer interests him—and why will it, when the network he works for sends him on various stories that deal with freak disasters? But once Pat loses his

THE MAN/ p.E2

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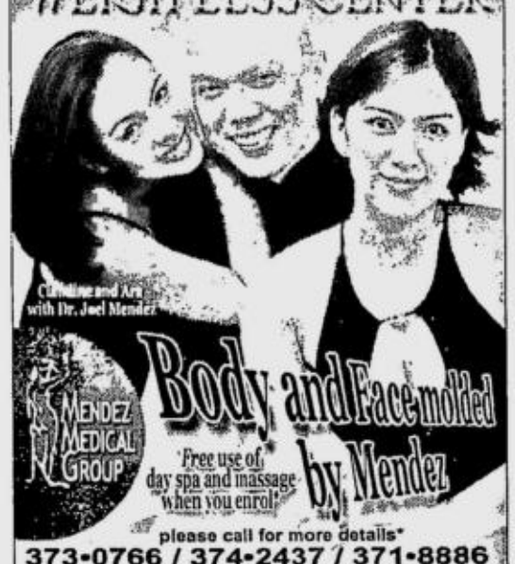
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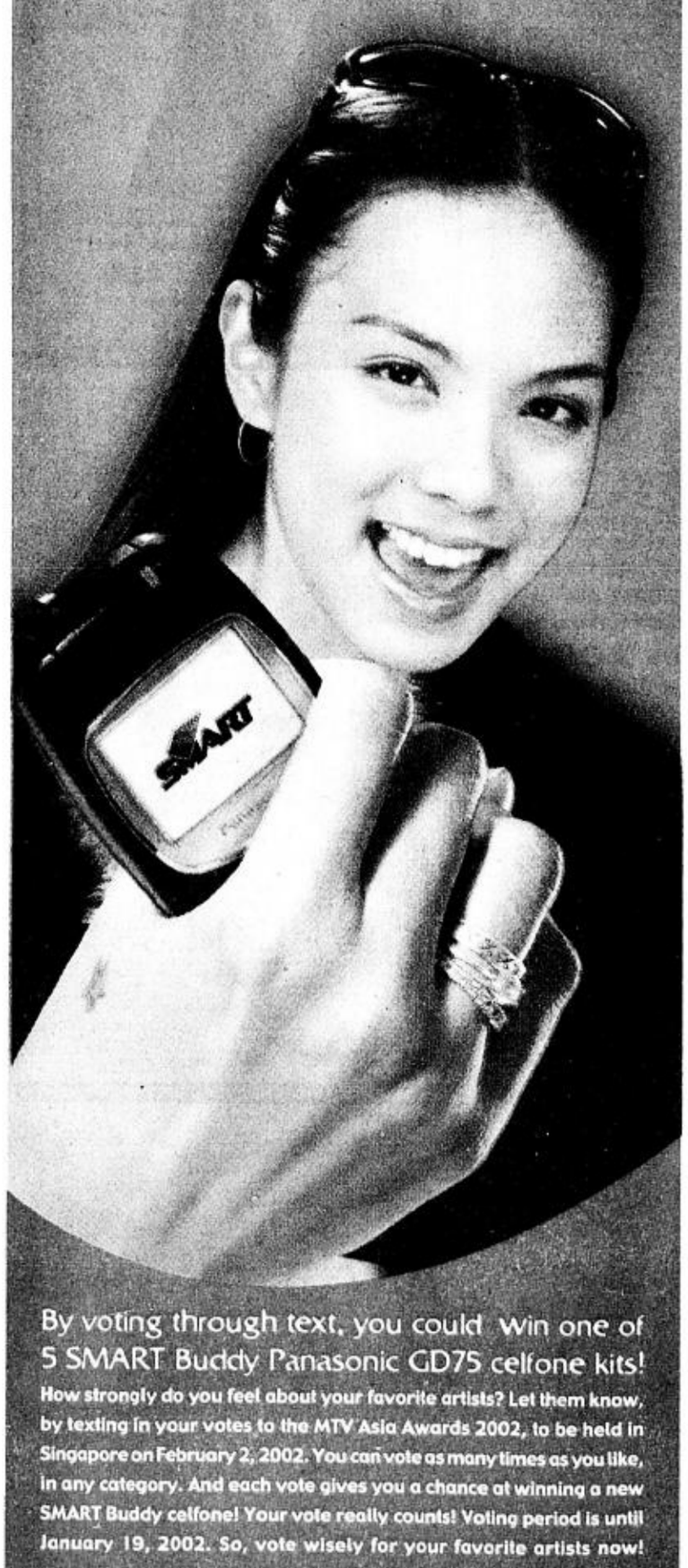

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Theology-happy Miriam Santiago shoots down Edsa II

(From page E1)

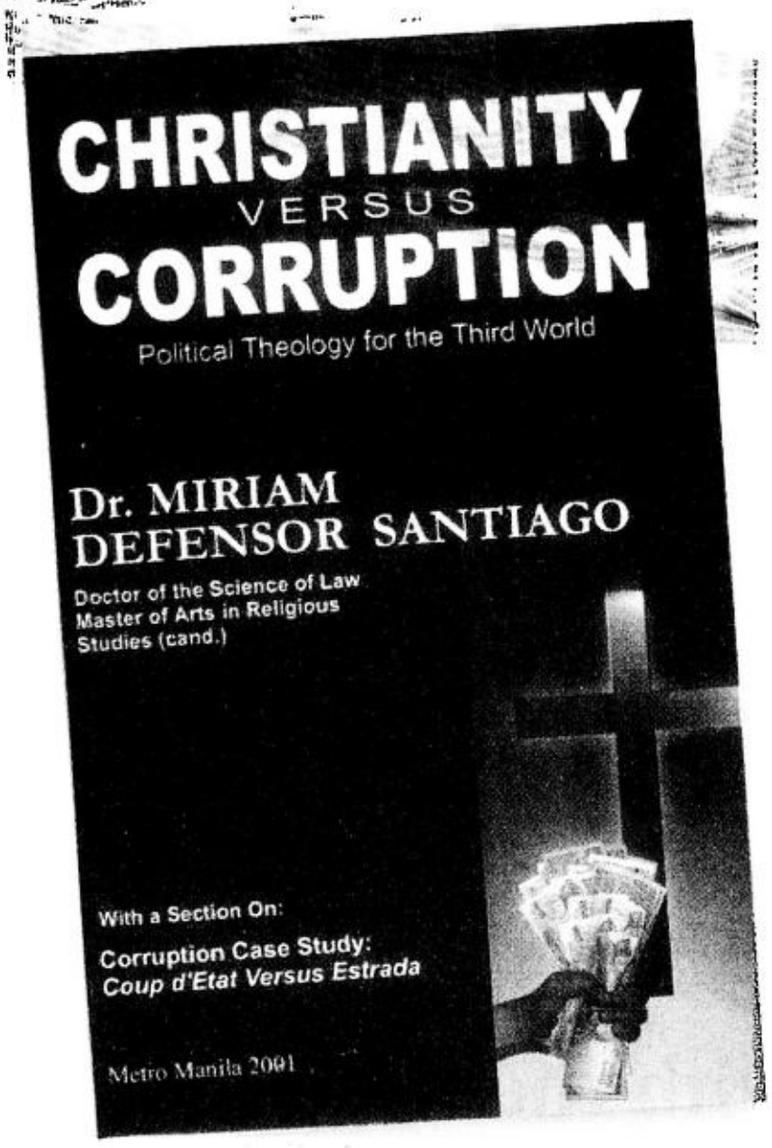
least, her appreciation of the social and political factors that cause or abet corruption is woefully inadequate.

This can be gleaned from her case studies, of which the Estrada downfall is a key exhibit. She situates the case study in her discussion of corruption as a case of social injustice. Even here her theology becomes wanting because she does not show how social justice is integral to the Gospel message, or for that matter, while quoting early on the Medellin document of the Catholic Church, she fails to link the Church's preferential option for the poor (a "constitutive" dimension of the Gospel message as espoused by the Latin American bishops gathered in Colombia). What she does is merely raise questions: "Social justice is the desideratum, but whose social justice, and at what cost? Is social justice a top-down phenomenon; can it be achieved without the participation of the poor? Or is social justice the exclusive preserve of the rich; and if so, what forms the theological basis of their triumphalistic philosophy."

Elitist picnic

The questions are leading. Predictably, Santiago considers Edsa II an elitist picnic. It was a display of money power, not people power. It was a revolution by the moneyed, interventionist clergy, marginalized left, politicized military and opportunistic Supreme Court.

It is easy to see how Santiago has employed a reductionist approach here. She is conveniently blind to the depredations of Estrada that had further impoverished the poor and undermined his authority to govern. She is even blind to the spectacular evidence of his scandalous underworld dealings. At the



least, she is oblivious to the trenchant reality that Estrada had become the metaphysical antithesis to social injustice because of the banality of his evil.

It would have been more proper if Santiago had stayed within the bounds of good taste and propriety by withholding comment on Edsa II. After all, she is an Estrada supporter and, as she says, Edsa II was "ambivalent." But the political animal that she is, she couldn't resist the temptation of picking up a fight and throwing political mud at her enemies. How else could one explain the delight she takes in raking coals over the corruption scandals of the Arroyo government, many of them smelling of demolition jobs. To be sure, while the evidence against Estrada was strong *ab initio*, the proof so far against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo or more specifically, her husband, is not convincing.

But Santiago has raised enough theological, political and legal questions for Filipinos to be less than triumphalistic about Edsa II. She castigates the CBCP for being too quick on the political punch. (Which is really misplaced because the CBCP's move merely dovetailed with the storm unleashed by Cardinal Jaime Sin who, without consulting his bishop-brothers, did the extraordinary move of calling on Estrada to resign out of *delicadeza*, a shocking justification that has left theology and the Church's position impaired.) She also considers the revolution as having driven further a wedge between the poor and the rich as shown by the arrogance or condescension of the rich at the height of "Edsa III." And true to her legal background, she questions the unstable constitutional foundation that was used by the Supreme Court to justify Arroyo's assumption to the presidency.

The book's weaknesses are all too evident, but it is worth the read. One hopes that the mind, flawed as it is, animating engagingly the pages is also capable of a little humility and self-criticism. After all, the sins of corruption and social injustice have both structural and personal foundations.

If Santiago confronts her debased nature, then that may be the start of personal and social redemption. As the Thomists would say, grace builds on nature.

The man with the doggone hand

(From page E1)

hand to a hungry lion in India, his life begins to take a strange new direction.

He begins to meet and have dalliances with women who, oddly enough, seem to be leading him into some profound awakening. When the oddball Dr. Zajac (yes the one with the dog) attaches a new hand to replace his lost left one, Pat's life really begins to take unpredictable twists as he finds himself hopelessly drawn to the widow of the man whose hand he has. This woman—Doris Clausen—seems to Pat to possess a voice that makes anyone want to have sex with her.

Bizarre

And this isn't even half of the strangeness that goes on in "The Fourth Hand." In fact, one of the bizarre details has to do with how Pat, on a trip to Japan, has his luggage misdirected to the Philippines—where it is promptly urinated on by bomb-sniffing dogs. There are many more precious if ineffective distractions along the way.

Irving clearly has not lost his touch when it comes to crafting engaging if a bit loony plots and twists. "The Fourth Hand" has those in spades. The problem is that it doesn't have particularly good ones. When Irving turns Pat's story into what amounts to a long, drawn-out romance that is interlaced with very authentic details about the Green Bay Packers, "The Fourth Hand" begins to feel a bit sketchy, as if it were only half-finished. This haphazard quality is surprising considering that the book's interest in topics that range from the broadcast media to the intricacies of getting pregnant seem rather well fleshed out. And you don't even want to know what "the fourth hand" is exactly.

Losing steam

Which is not to say the book is boring. Irving's prose remains clear and commanding, and some of his observations with make readers laugh out loud. But after setting up the premise, the book clearly loses steam as Pat seems to be meandering about aimlessly in the book's abdomen. Irving visibly tries to work a great degree of poignancy in the lakeside scenes, but that emotion gets eaten up by the involved narrative.

Even more noticeable, vivid characters like the anorexic Dr. Zajac are given whole chapters to chew scenery in, and then are suddenly, completely forgotten for most of the book before what feels like a cursory, "closure" reference is thrown in before the book ends. "The Fourth Hand," while engaging in parts and not without its own sense of creative scheming, just lacks purpose and vigor.

After the critical success that was "A Widow for One Year," readers were hoping for a taste of the good old stuff from Irving with this new book. Unfortunately, a return to old haunts seems to have been a whole turn for this master of the absurd. As "The Fourth Hand" wanders towards its surprisingly predictable and listless conclusion, readers will no doubt get the impression that John Irving wrote this book with his hand tied behind his back.

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Scottish 'Voices' at UST

A UNIQUE presentation of contemporary Scottish writings dubbed as "Voices," will be held at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Colayco Park on Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. by the British Council and the Cultural Center of the Philippines, with UST and the Scottish Arts Council.

"Voices" is a two-part program that will feature works by Scotland's prominent writers as performed by renowned stage actors Michael Williams and Andrew McLay. The stage performance, which is part of the Philippine-British Literary Conference, will culminate in a one-act play entitled "Sacraments of the Dead" written by Palanca Award winner Tony Perez and directed by Chris Millado.

The UST Colayco Park, situated between the Main Building and the Central Library, is considered the cultural haven of the Pontifical University where concerts, plays and other intercultural activities are staged. "Voices" at UST is open to the public. Call the UST Public and Alumni Affairs Office at 731-3101, local 8315, or 731-3544 or the British Council at 914-1011 to 14.

RP-UK literary conference at FEU, University of San Agustin-Iloilo

FROM JAN. 16-22, the British Council and the Cultural Center of the Philippines mark this year's Philippine-British Literary Conference by presenting "Voices," a unique showcase of contemporary Scottish writing, books and literature.

Repertory Philippines stalwart Michael Williams teams up with Scottish actor Andrew McLay in a two-part program featuring works by Scotland's leading writers like John Burnside, Carol Ann Duffy, W.N. Herbert, Jackie Kay, Brian McCabe and William Mellvanney. Capping the show will be a special presentation of "Sacraments of the Dead," a one-act play in English by Tony Perez. Direction is by Chris Millado.

Contemporary writing from the UK has never been stronger, and the Philippine-British Literary Conference, with its theme "The Evolving Canon in Literature," provides an ideal arena for bringing together some of the most talented, powerful and marketable voices for what the British Council promises to be a stimulating, instructive, and enjoyable series.

Welsh poet Menna Elfyn joins Glasgow novelist Toni Davidson and Filipino writers Ruel de Vera, Ronald Baytan, Lakambini Sitoy, Luis Katigbak and Angelo Lacuesta as resource speakers for the conference proper, which will be held at the Far Eastern University on Jan. 17-18 and at the University of San Agustin Iloilo Jan. 21-22.

The theatrical performances will then tour various venues, with the opening gala to be held at the seawall area just off the CCP on Jan. 16 at 6.p.m. Other shows follow at FEU (Jan. 17, 7 p.m.), the Festival Mall-Alabang's Expo Trade Hall (Jan. 19, 5 p.m.) and at the University of Baguio gym (Jan. 22, 5 p.m.).

Call Susan Arcega or Ahrni Planco at 914-1011 to -14.

Book on dermal issues

ANVIL Publishing Inc. has released "Skin in the Tropics: Sunscreens and Hyperpigmentations" by respected Filipino dermatologic clinician-scholar Dr. Vermen M. Verallo-Rowell.

Meant as a first volume to what Verallo-Rowell plans to be a series of books on Asian skin, "Skin in the Tropics" is for dermatologists, dermatology residents and cosmetic scientists concerned with defining and maintaining healthy skin in the tropics. It is basically for anyone interested in skin—theirs or someone else's.

The book, which is in full color, is presented in Q&A format and is supported by actual studies. It explains why skin is the way it is in the tropics and gives a well researched, in-depth discussion of various skin conditions, especially acquired pigmentary skin conditions common to Asians. It also provides a background on the treatment and prevention of skin diseases and devotes a whole section on the correct use (and importance) of sunscreen.

Described by dermatologists as "interesting," "useful," "comprehensive" and "focused," the book was presented at the Annual Asian Dermatological Congress in Bangkok.

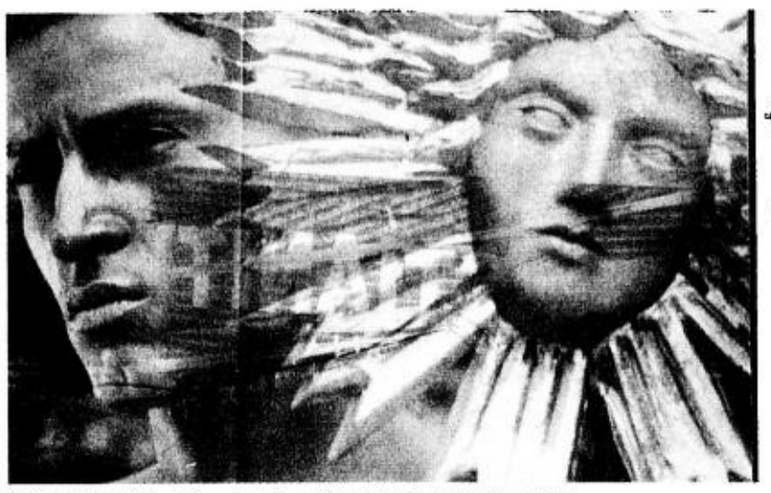
ANDREW Matthews, author of the best-sellers "Being Happy" and "Follow Your Heart," recently held book-signing sessions at the National Bookstore in Shangri-La Plaza and Powerbooks in Makati. His latest, "Being a Happy Teenager," is another best-seller at National and Powerbooks.

The best of Cinemanila filmfest at Greenbelt

THE MOST notable movies in the Third Cinemanila International Festival are being shown until Jan. 22 at the Greenbelt 1 Cinema in Makati. Dubbed "Best of Cinemanila and More," the series features the award-winning films of the festival, including Korea's "Chunhyang" and "Happy End," Thailand's "Jan Dara" and "Tears of the Black Tiger" and Belgium's "The King is Dancing."

"Chunhyang" is based on a classic Korean folk tale, an exuberant love story similar to "Romeo and Juliet." "Chunhyang" is the first film to be screened in competition at the prestigious Cannes International Film Festival. The film also won the Best Feature Film Prize at the 2000 Hawaii International Film Festival and the Best Director Award at the 2001 Singapore International Film Festival. The film is directed by renowned Korean filmmaker Im Kwon Taek.

Ji-woo Jung's "Happy End" revolves around Min-Ki, Bo-Ra and Il-Beom, the first of whom has just been fired after six years of working in a bank. In order to fill the painful void in his life and hide his unhappiness from her partner, the successful career woman, Bo-Ra, heads off every morning to a secondhand bookshop to read love stories. One day, Bo-Ra bumps into Il-Beom, an old flame whom she hasn't seen for many years, and she and her lover plan to elope.



"THE KING is Dancing," a film by Gerard Corbiau

Thai director Nonzee Nimibutr's "Jan Dara" is based on a controversial Thai novel. The film is about a young man who returns to his father's house seeking revenge. He discovers that while he has always hated his father for the way he treated women, he may be destined to repeat the past in order to conquer it.

Another Thai film included is "Tears of the Black Tiger," which is believed to have all the makings of a classic cult movie with its central love story bringing out the spirit of Thai romance. This newest Thai cinematic sensation was recently acquired by Miramax International for its worldwide release. The film, which is produced by Nimibutr, is directed by Wisit Sasanatieng.

Belgium's "King is Dancing" is a brilliant recreation of the court of Louis XIV. His boyhood friend, Jean-Baptiste Lully, becomes his favorite composer, yet he is put on an emotional roller coaster when Louis' affection for him fades. The film, directed by Gerard Corbiau, drew acclaim in screenings last year in Berlin as well as at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festivals.

Call the Cinemanila office at 371-8821 and 412-7686.

MORE subscribers for the Peace Philharmonic Philippines

New Year's wishes for the musical arts

By Pablo Tariman
Contributor

FOR THE PERFORMING artists, I wish them more performing opportunities at the CCP, Philamlife Theater, Francisco Santiago Hall, the Meralco Theater and outreach venues in the provinces.

For concert organizers and resident impresarios, I wish them more fortitude and determination in the face of dwindling audiences, not to mention the dwindling number of sponsorships and arts grants from available sources.

In particular, I wish the National Philharmonic Society a longer life after the demise of the late conductor and impresario Redentor Romero.

I also wish the Philippine Philharmonic and the Filipino Artists Series more subscribers, but as an outsider looking in, I wish something could be done about the following: 1. better programming (the PPO has nothing but piano soloists in its last three concerts for the season); 2. better choice of artists (there are young artists who deserve to be orchestra soloists but nothing is done to expose them and resident impresarios and concert organizers are content with walk-in artists and not bothering to watch other events with promising soloists) and better marketing.

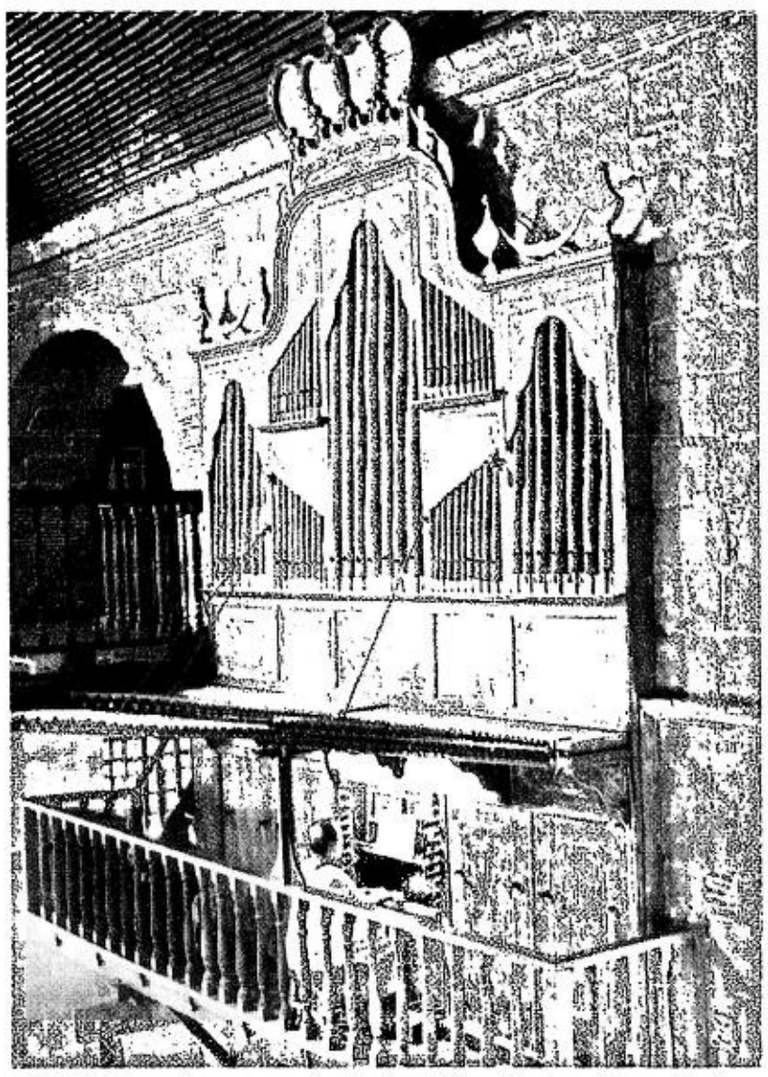
I also wish the Manila Symphony Orchestra II a more vibrant season and an iron will to survive the worldwide recession.

In the same token, I wish the Peace Philharmonic more donors and arts grants so that it can resume its suspended season concerts.

I also wish Sister Mary Placid, administrator of the St. Cecilia's Hall, can raise funds for the stage shell needed to make soloists and recitalists sound better in its air-conditioned concert hall. The hall is ideal for ballet and microphone-lugging singers but real artists hanker for a natural, un-amplified sound. Also, I wish something can be done to give concert-goers more access to available parking spaces in the campus. Those who survived the last Christmas concert end up victimized by car thieves or fly-by-night traffic managers who towed away their cars.

For concert promoters and publicists, I wish they'd stop using qualifiers like "world-class," "world-acclaimed," "virtuoso" and "diva" for artists who have yet to earn credentials and whose "acclaim" was confined to community concerts organized by relatives and friends here and abroad. Also the word "diva" doesn't apply to students of music conservatories and singers who have not outgrown joining competitions.

For the newly organized San Miguel Philharmonic, I wish them a formal and proper debut this year with honest-to-goodness programming not just fit for campus audiences.



A MORE dynamic program for the Las Piñas Bamboo Organ Music Festival

For the long-running Las Piñas Bamboo Organ Music Festival, I wish it a more dynamic life, more patronage from local residents and music lovers all over the country. I also hope Cole Porter and George Gerswhin don't invade its programming too often.

I also wish the Pundaquit Festival of the Arts in San Antonio, Zambales more patronage, more funds for its season events and more discoveries of promising musicians.

In the same token, I also wish more funding for the National Music Competitions for Young Artists and more publicity for its annual events and winners (I only learn about the winners from music teachers with winning students and by calling NAMCYA). I wish President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo would find time to pose with NAMCYA winners and not just with rescued kidnapped hostages.

Here and there

Our congratulations to musical arranger Nonong Buencamino for once again winning the festival award for best film scoring in the landmark film and festival box office champion, "Bagong Buwan" by Marilou Diaz-Abaya. He won the same award for "Jose Rizal" and "Muro-ami." I guess Nonong will duplicate the same feat in the new Laurice Guillen film, "American Adobo." There is nothing like a music-loving director teaming up with a legitimate musician. Nonong happens to be a cousin of Cecile Licad, who is a Buencamino on her mother's side.

Our condolences to the family of soprano Fides Cuyugan Asensio whose husband, Nestlé executive Manuel D. Asensio, passed away recently. A week before he died, the 13-year old TV show, "A Little Night of Music" also had its last taping.

Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Filipino as an Artist" will have a new version, this time with two males portraying the role of Paula and Candida, who will be portrayed by two big names in the theater world. Watch for it at the CCP.

Expect new classical music concerts in the countryside as pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes resume their outreach romantic piano concerto journey on Jan. 15 (Tacloban City, Hotel Alejandro, 6 p.m.), Jan. 16 (Ormoc City, Sabin Resort Hotel, 5 p.m.), Jan. 18 (Iligan City, La Salle University), Jan. 19 (Cagayan de Oro City, Lourdes College, 4 p.m.), Jan. 21 (Tagbilaran City, Meridian Hotel, 5 p.m.), Jan. 22 (Cebu City, Snug Harbor, Paradise Village, 5 p.m.), Jan. 23 (Silay City, Balay Negrense, 5 p.m.), Jan. 24 (Iloilo City, University of San Agustin, 2 p.m.), Jan. 25 (San Jose Antique, Emilio Javier Memorial Center 5 p.m.), Jan. 27 (Concert at the Park, 5 p.m.). For future repeat of this concerto journey program, call Nila at 852-7365 or Monina at 721-7255.

ACTOR'S Actors' Inc. will stage "Promises, Promises," a delightful interpretation of "The Apartment," the hilarious '60s Broadway collaboration between Burt Bacharach, Neil Simon and Hal David. The comic play stars Rachel Alejandro, Lee Robin Salazar, Michael Williams, Tintin Arnaldo and Jaime Fabregas. Call 891-5610 or 536-5844.

MTV Asia Awards 2002
Categories & Nominees

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST- Philippines
(Keyword: MUSICARTIST)
A - Freestyle
B - Gary Valenciano
C - Lea Salonga
D - Martin Nievera
E - Regine Velasquez

FAVORITE MALE ARTIST
(Keyword:MALEARTIST)
A - Eminem
B - Ricky Martin
C - Robbie Willams
D - Ronan Keating
E - Shaggy

FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST
(Keyword: FEMALEARTIST)
A - Britney Spears
B - Christina Aguilera
C - Jennifer Lopez
D - Madonna
E - Mariah Carey

FAVORITE POP ACT
(Keyword: POPACT)
A - Backstreet Boys
B - Destiny's Child
C - M2M
D - N'Sync
E - Westlife

FAVORITE ROCK ACT
(Keyword: ROCKACT)
A - Bon Jovi
B - Coldplay
C - Limp Bizkit
D - Linkin Park
E - U2

FAVORITE VIDEO
(Keyword: VIDEO)
A - The Call (Backstreet Boys)
B - Weapon of Choice (Fatboy Slim)
C - 19-2000 (Gorillaz)
D - POP (N'Sync)
E - Lady Marmalade (Pink, Christina Aguilera, Mya, Lil' Kim)

FAVORITE BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST (Keyword: BREAKTHROUGH)
A - Coldplay
B - Gorillaz
C - Nelly Furtado
D - Alicia Keys
E - Linkin Park

FAVORITE FILM
(Keyword: FILM)
A - Charlie's Angels
B - Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
C - Rush Hour 2
D - Pearl Harbor
E - Shrek
F - The Mummy Returns

FAVORITE FASHION DESIGNER
(Keyword: FASHION)
A - Donatella Versace (Versace)
B - John Galliano (Christian Dior)
C - Marc Jacobs (Louis Vuitton/ Marc Jacobs)
D - Miuccia Prada (Prada/Miu Miu)
E - Stella McCartney
F - Tom Ford (Gucci/ YSL)

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'My son died all over again'–Lenny Villa's ma

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2002 ★★ 48 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 38 ₱15

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Bush faints while watching TV** WORLD / A13
- **Gloria wants Haydee in SMC** NEWS / A4
- **Senators' ratings also down** NEWS / A5
- **T-bill rates hit new lows** BUSINESS / B1

THE ANNUAL Balikatan exercises of Filipino and American soldiers last June get "realistic" as they move out of their usual venues in Luzon and the Visayas to Mindanao for the first time. EDWIN BACASMAS

US troops to the rescue

Americans to participate in 6-12-month exercise

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL AND CARLITO PABLO

FOR the first time, Malacañang yesterday admitted that American troops would directly participate in the rescue of American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham from their Abu Sayyaf kidnappers.

The rescue operations are allegedly part of joint-training exercises called "Balikatan 02-1" between American and Filipino troops in Basilan, where the Burnhams are being held, and the nearby Zamboanga City.

Also for the first time, the Balikatan exercises move to Mindanao for "realistic training."

On Saturday, President Macapagal-Arroyo approved a joint proposal by the Department of National Defense, Armed Forces of the Philippines and the US Pacific Command for the training exercise.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the training exercises would be held from February to June but might be extended up to the end of the year "depending on the situation."

Balikatan ("shoulder to shoulder") exercises used to be confined to Luzon and the Visayas and usually lasted a couple of weeks to a month.

Some 160 US "special forces" and 500 US support groups will take part in the annual training exercises.

"In the course of this joint effort, we expect the Abu Sayyaf neutralized and the hostages recovered," Reyes said.

The Abu Sayyaf bandits have been holding the Burnhams and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap as hostages for almost seven months.

Washington earlier identified the Abu Sayyaf as part of the al-Qaida terrorist network of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden, principal suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

About 7,000 Filipino soldiers, including the US-trained Light Reaction Company, elite Scout Rangers and Marines, are scouring Basilan for the Abu Sayyaf and their hostages.

"For realistic training, the location of the anti-terrorism exercise is transferred to Mindanao this year,

US/ A17

Nur's men here, bare terror plan

BY ARLYN DE LA CRUZ
Contributor

ARMED supporters of rebel Moro leader Nur Misuari are already in Metro Manila and preparing to launch an urban terrorism campaign, this reporter learned over the weekend.

At least five teams belonging to the so-called "Misuari Renegade Group" arrived in the national capital as early as last Wednesday. Their mission: To pressure the government into releasing the former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor.

One squad of "mutallah" or special forces, led by a man who introduced himself as "Commander Jethro," said his group had not yet decided whether to stage a rescue operation, saying Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, was a heavily guarded place. The plan at the moment is to implement what he called "special urban operations."

NUR'S/ A6

Cops secure Malacañang to prevent 'Edsa Four'

BY CARLITO PABLO

SADDLED by images of the so-called "Edsa Tres," the police and military are providing "ample" and full" security to the Malacañang complex as the administration prepares to celebrate the first anniversary of People Power II.

Director Edgardo Aglipay, chief of the Philippine National Police in the National Capital Region, yesterday cited "the experience of May 1" in explaining the security arrangements for the commemoration that starts on Jan. 16 and culminates on Jan. 20.

"I hope some of our brothers will understand because of what happened last May 1," Aglipay said, referring to the mob attack on the Palace mounted by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada. "We have to do something so that the house of President Macapagal-Arroyo will not again be violated."

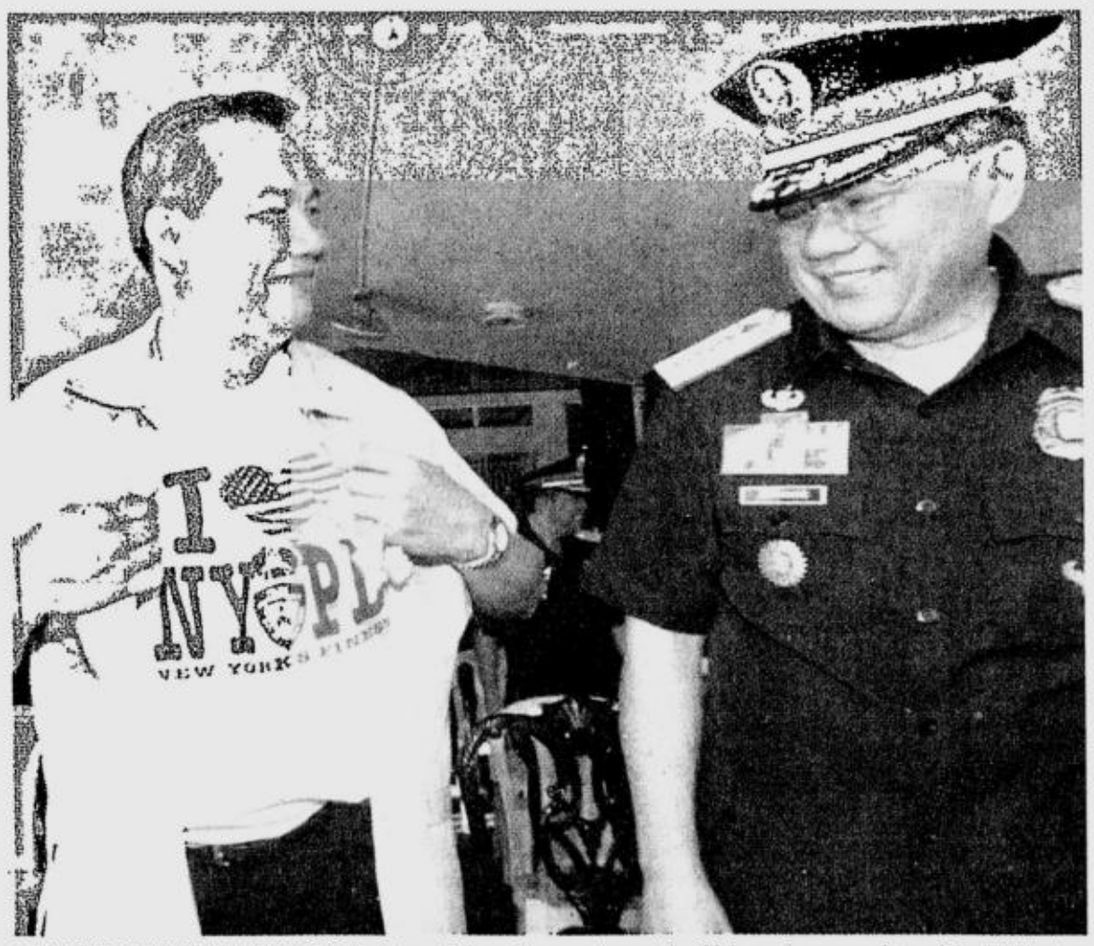
Aglipay spoke with reporters shortly after stepping out of an unscheduled meeting attended by security, military and police officials and chaired by National Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday evening at the Palace.

He said demonstrators would be allowed to assemble at the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"The Chino Roces Bridge is considered a freedom park, but there is a (time) restriction," he said. "If they exceed the (restriction), there will be PNP elements there to push them away."

Apparently referring to the breach of police lines when Estrada loyalists made their way from the Edsa Shrine to Malacañang in the

COPS/ A16



WHERE'S PHILIPPINES FINEST? Fr. Gerry Orbos, the speaker at the 11th anniversary rites of the Philippine National Police community relations group at Camp Crame on Monday, surprises the cops, including Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane, when he unbuttons his shirt to reveal the United States' post-Sept. 11 hot-selling T-shirts emblazoned with "I love NYPD" (New York Police Dept.). The Orbos challenge is for Filipinos to proudly wear one day T-shirts proclaiming, "I love the PNP." JOAN BONDOC

Erap loyalists to cap series of protests with Palace rally

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA
TJ BURGONIO
AND VOLT CONTRERAS

THE PEOPLE'S Movement against Poverty (PMAP) will mark the anniversary of the uprising that unseated its idol Joseph Estrada with protest activities capped by a rally outside Malacañang, where pro-Estrada forces mounted a bloody Labor Day siege last year.

"Instead of attending the Edsa Dos activities, we call on the people, particularly the poor, to participate in the week-long series of mass actions led by the PMAP and other 'Edsa Tres' groups," the group's spokesperson Arnold Obina said yesterday.

According to Obina, "Karma," an acronym for "Kalampagin ang Abusadong Rehimeng Macapagal-Arroyo," is the name that the PMAP has given the protest actions scheduled to start tomorrow.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo was now "tasting the bitter pill of bad karma" in the form of

ERAP/ A16

Who is the true ARMM governor?

ANALYSIS

BY RAUL J. PALABRICA

ALTHOUGH President Macapagal-Arroyo has sworn in Dr. Parouk Hussin as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, his predecessor, Nur Misuari, has reason to believe he is the rightful head of the ARMM.

Even if behind bars, Misuari's right and authority as duly elected ARMM governor remain unimpaired. Only a declaration of guilt of the rebellion charges and judicial declaration stripping him of his right to hold public office can legally bar him from exercising the powers of the office to which he had been elected earlier.

Confined in Fort Sto. Domingo while awaiting trial for rebellion charges, Misuari has argued that under the law creating the ARMM

WHO/ A6

Another S-211 jet crashes; 6 killed

BY ANSELMO ROQUE
AND TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CABANATUAN CITY—It happened again to the most accident-prone aircraft of the Philippine Air Force.

While many residents were taking their afternoon nap, a two-seater S-211 trainer jet crashed into the heavily populated Barangay M.S. Garcia, about a kilometer from the central business district here.

Killed were the pilot and the co-pilot and four people on the ground. At least 21 houses were burned.

It was the eighth S-211 plane that crashed since 1991, the year it was acquired from its Italian manufacturer, Agusta. Only three S-211s of the 18 acquired from Agusta remain flyable in the PAF fleet. It has

ANOTHER/ A16

Pañero cries foul

BY ROCKY NAZARENO
AND CYNTHIA D. BALANA

ONE of the country's top lawyers played one on one with the country's basketball superstar at the Senate yesterday, but it was no friendly pick-up game.

PAÑERO/ A16

Second FRONT PAGE

'My son died all over again'

Lenny Villa's ma assails Court of Appeals verdict

By Agnes E. Donato
Cathy C. Yamsuan
and Norman Bordadora

"IT'S as if my son died all over again."

This was how the mother of hazing victim Lenny Villa reacted yesterday to the Court of Appeals decision acquitting 19 of the 26 Aquila Legis fraternity members accused of killing her son in 1991.

"I'm sure the Aquila Legis members are so happy now. I heard they're still around, looking for brothers," said Mrs. Gerarda Villa.

Meanwhile, Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee yesterday urged state prosecutors to file immediately for a cancellation of the bail bond of Fidelito Dizon and Artemio Villareal, the two Aquilans found guilty of homicide and sentenced to 17-year jail terms.

He said that even if the two were to file a motion for reconsideration of their convictions, they should immediately start serving time.

'Very devastated'

Villa, who is also the founder and chairperson of the Crusade Against Violence group of victims of violence, said she was "very, very devastated" by the CA decision convicting only two of the accused.

"After 11 years of fighting for justice, I am gifted with an acquittal. I am devastated. I am very, very devastated," Mrs. Villa said in a statement, which she read during a press conference yesterday.

Mrs. Villa said Justice Eulogo Versola, who wrote the decision, had condoned hazing when he considered the neophytes' consent to undergo physical initiation or hazing as a "valid defense."

She maintained that her son only agreed to humane initiation rites.

'Didn't agree to be killed'

"Justice Versola, my son Lenny as well as the other neophytes did not agree to be killed," she said.

Mrs. Villa also questioned Versola's conclusion that there was no conspiracy among the accused Aquilans. She pointed out that conspiracy was a "long-settled" issue, with the CA ruling that "conspiracy exists."

CAV national president Carina Agarao warned that the Versola ruling might "set a dangerous precedent" for other perpetrators of hazing.

She said the Anti-Hazing Law now had less legal teeth, with neophytes' consent being considered a valid defense.

"It was short of saying that it's okay to kill," she said.

She also criticized Versola's remark that the appeals court would "not be swayed by the public outcry for revenge."

"We have always encouraged people to resort to legal means and not to take the law into their hands. Now we're being accused of crying for blood," Agarao said in defense of the CAV, which was formed six months after Villa's killing.

But she said her group still believed in the legal system and would support Mrs. Villa in filing for a motion for reconsideration.

'Grudge' vs Lenny

Teehankee said the possibility of flight by Dizon and Villareal was enough reason to seek a cancellation of their bail bonds.

The only impediment to their incarceration was the bail granted by the Caloocan City regional trial court that found them and 24 other Aquilans guilty in 1993 of Villa's death by hazing.

Last Friday, the CA affirmed the conviction of Dizon and Villareal after finding proof that they had been holding a "grudge" against Villa and had apparently used the fraternity hazing rites to get even.

Under the law, the two must serve a minimum of 10 years in jail for homicide.

The 17-year jail terms for Villareal and Dizon do not merit an automatic review by the Supreme Court, Teehankee said.

The justice official warned that the bail bond filed by Dizon and Villareal remain in effect "until it is canceled" by the Caloocan regional court.

MRS. Gerarda Villa holds the picture of her son Lenny during the 11th anniversary of his death.

Toll frozen, but not for Skyway, Coastal

AUTHORITIES yesterday suspended the toll increases in North Luzon Expressway and portions of South Luzon Expressway for another 60 days.

The Philippine National Construction Co. and the Toll Regulatory Board made the decision after meeting with the President yesterday afternoon.

A Palace statement said the TRB agreed to hold public hearings and to make its decision in 60 days.

Malacañang has suspended the 36- to 60-percent toll increases for a week ending this Thursday, due to public protest.

The suspension order only covers the North Luzon Expressway from Balintawak to Sta. Ines and the Alabang to Calamba segment of the South Luzon Expressway.

The toll increases, however, in the Skyway system and the Coastal Road were not suspended.

The Palace said toll increases for the segment of the South Luzon Expressway from Magallanes to Alabang is not suspended because it is run by the Skyway System of the PNCC-Citra joint venture.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ms Macapagal told PNCC officials yesterday that future toll increases should be implemented gradually.

She also told them to study "innovative" rate adjustments, such as different toll rates for peak and non-peak hours of the day and a "socialized" toll structure in favor of the poor and vehicles transporting agricultural products.

She also ordered them to find other means of generating revenue other than through toll.

She suggested they open up and bid sites for gasoline stations and restaurants along the highways.

Don't protest too much, labor chief tells HK maids

By D. Pazzibugan
and B. Rivera

LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday asked Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong to tone down their protest against the proposed cut in their wages.

Sto. Domingo said militant rallies might only alienate Hong Kong authorities who, "in the end, will decide (on the wage cut). It's their government."

A Malacañang statement said Sto. Tomas cautioned the marchers "not to be very bombastic in their language."

A Filipino migrant group led a noisy rally of foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong Sunday to protest the government's proposed 21.6 percent cut in the wages of new DHs.

The Hong Kong government will come out with its final decision on the matter at the end of February or early March.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had written Hong Kong Special Administrative Region chief executive Tung Chee-Wah seeking his help in scrapping the plan.

She told Tung that the Filipinos, some 180,000 now, have been serving their employers for a long time and they deserve to continue to get their present monthly salary of at least HK$3,760.

Sto. Tomas, however, lauded the presence of a group of Philippine legislators at the protest rally Sunday.

Sto. Tomas said the members of Congress were there to reiterate the Philippines' stand against the proposed wage cut.

The DOLE chief said any discussions the legislators may have initiated with the Hong Kong government would help.

"It's both a political and labor issue," Sto. Tomas said in a phone interview yesterday.

"There is also pressure from the locals there to be given access to jobs that are being held by expatriates... so any move that would influence (the Hong Kong officials' decision) will help," she added.

Representatives Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna), Roseller Barinaga (Zamboanga del Sur) and Krisel Lagman-Luistro (Albay) and lawyer Rachel Pastores, representing Rep. Crispin Beltran, flew to Hong Kong over the weekend to attend the biggest protest rally ever held by foreign domestic helpers led by Filipinos against the proposed wage cut.

Hong Kong's Department of Education and Manpower is reviewing the wages of foreign domestic workers who receive the minimum wage of HK$3760.

"This is Congress' chance to give immediate and direct assistance to our migrant workers," Beltran said in a statement.

"To fight the proposed wage cut is better than rolling out the red carpet for OFWs when they come home. What they need is concrete support and not just symbolic gestures," Beltran said.

Sto. Tomas herself met with Hong Kong officials last month to relay the Philippine government's opposition to the wage cut.

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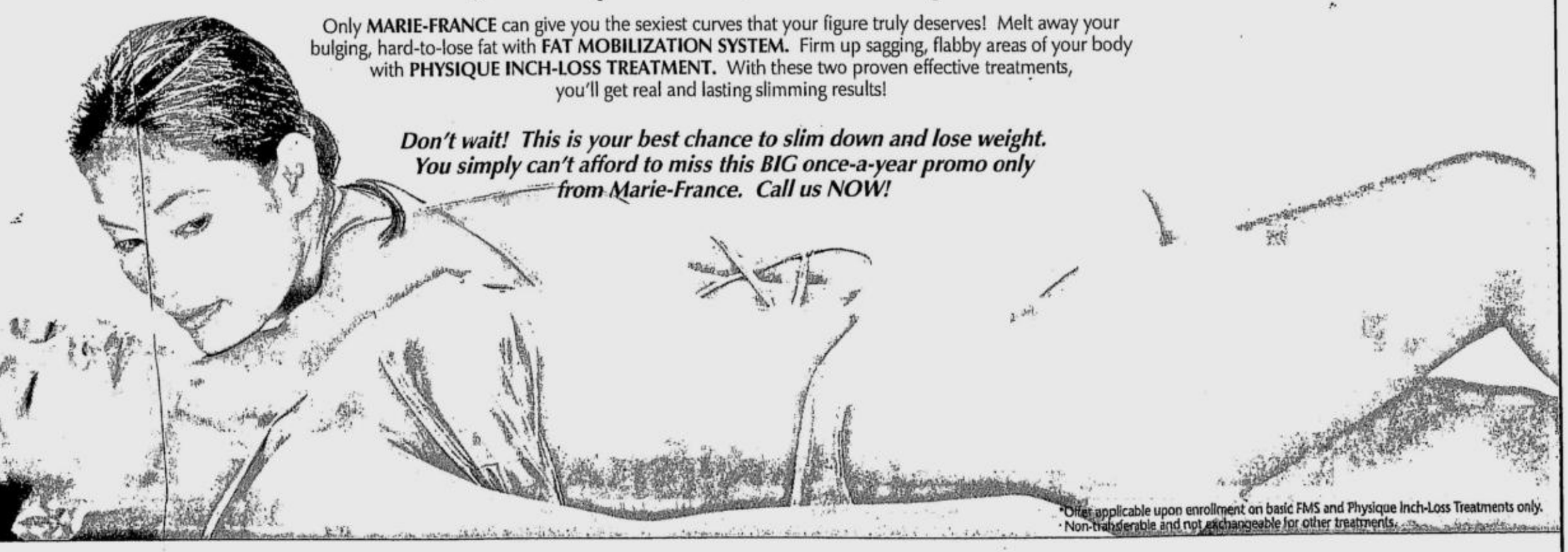

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Gloria wants Haydee in SMC board, but...

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo wants to appoint Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac as one of five government directors of the San Miguel Corp.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza might also be nominated for a board seat, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

The government through the PCGG, controls five of the 15 SMC board seats owing to the 27-percent sequestered shares being held in trust for the country's coconut farmers.

The government claims the shares were "public" as they were bought with funds from the coco levy imposed on coconut farmers by the Marcos regime.

But Yorac has made it her policy not to sit in boards of sequestered companies because she wants to maintain her independence and concentrate on her work as PCGG chair.

The President appointed five nominees to the SMC one month after she took office.

But some of those she nominated have declined because they got tired of waiting for the Estrada nominees in the SMC board to step down, Tiglao said.

The government has for the past year been trying to get the five directors appointed by jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada to step down.

The PCGG said the Estrada nominees had failed to look after the government's interest when they did not report the $540-million stock purchase deal that the SMC was negotiating with the Japanese brewer Kirin.

SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. controls eight of 15 board seats, not including the five Estrada-named directors.

Tiglao said the President is now deciding whether the five people she had earlier nominated would still be her choice, or whether she should also name Yorac and Carranza.

Some of the five nominees have

YORAC

said that because of the delay in assuming the SMC board seats, they have gone on to other jobs and endeavors so that they may no longer have the time for SMC, Tiglao said.

Last week, Tiglao disclosed that the government was finalizing an "interim agreement" with Cojuangco over control of SMC.

The deal reportedly provides for the "peaceful turnover" of the government seats to the Macapagal nominees.

Cojuangco would reportedly also allow government representatives to sit in all major SMC committees.

In return, the government would drop its objection to the terms of Kirin's $540-million buy-in into SMC.

The government had worried that Kirin's entry would dilute its 27-percent share.

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Peace talks with NDF not dead yet, says Bello

BY CARLITO PABLO

GOVERNMENT chief peace negotiator Silvestre Bello III is optimistic that talks with communist rebels will formally resume either at the end of this month or early February.

"We are jointly working to remove the obstacles for the resumption of the formal peace talks," Bello yesterday said over radio station dzRH.

Bello said he has recently returned from the Netherlands (not Oslo, Norway, as earlier reported) where he conferred with leaders of the National Democratic Front based there.

"We are waiting for the results of the consultation process within the NDF. Our communication is constant," Bello said.

Bello said the government side has made a "proposal" with the NDF but did not say what it was.

Malacañang earlier said that President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted to come up with a single and comprehensive peace agreement with the NDF.

This was rejected by the NDF, which cited the existing framework of the talks, which provide for agreements for each specific stage of the negotiations.

Bello maintained that the inclusion of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, in the list of terrorist organizations by the United States, as well as the stepped-up role of the US in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao, are not affecting back channel talks with the NDF.

"These are issues which can be addressed properly and should not be a cause to disrupt the peace process," he said.

Answering a query in the same radio interview, Bello said the Norwegian government, host of the talks, is the one shouldering the expenses of the NDF.

"In fairness to the Norwegian Royal Government, they offered the same to the government but we graciously declined," Bello said.

NBI told to probe e-mail-order brides

BY NORMAN BORDADORA AND BLANCHE S. RIVERA

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez has ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to look into allegations that US-based syndicates have been victimizing hapless Filipinos who want to go to the United States by marrying Americans.

Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee told reporters Perez instructed the NBI to identify the Filipino partners of the e-mail-order bride syndicates that Sen. Loren Legarda exposed recently.

"(The secretary) has ordered the NBI to probe the Filipino partners of the electronic-mail-order bride syndicates based in the US that have been victimizing Filipino women," Teehankee said at a press conference.

He said these syndicates "violated the Philippine Anti-Mail Order Bride Law of 1990."

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration admitted yesterday the government was helpless in stopping the traffic in e-mail-order brides because it involved "paperless transactions."

Owwa chief Wilhelm Soriano said most of the Filipino e-mail-order brides were only using their marriages to find employment abroad.

He said the government could not do anything about this because such marriages do not go through the normal procedures of ordinary deployment.

"It's illegal. These are not Owwa members so the help that can be extended by the government is very limited," Soriano said in a press conference yesterday.

There are some eight million Filipino workers overseas.

Soriano said the Department of Foreign Affairs should be more stringent in issuing passports to Filipinos who would be willing victims of the illegal trade although he admitted this would be difficult since no documents are involved.

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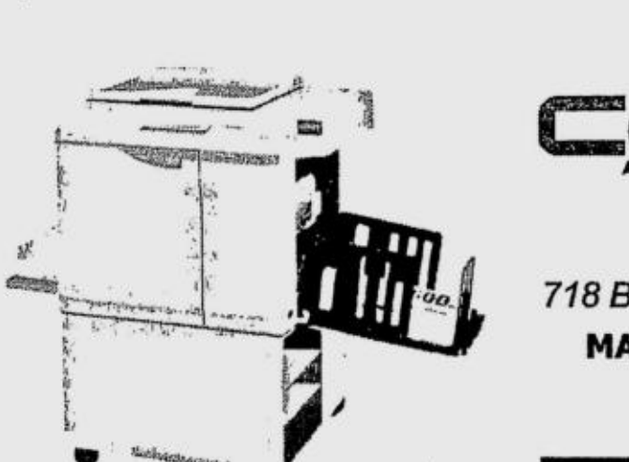

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, January 15, 2002
1st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 S 1:9-20
Gospel: Mk 1:21-28

Jesus and his disciples went into the town of Capernaum and Jesus began to teach in the synagogue during the sabbath assemblies. The people were astonished at the way he taught, for he spoke as one having authority and not like the teachers of the Law.

It happened that a man with an evil spirit was in their synagogue and he shouted, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: You are the Holy One of God." Then Jesus faced him and said with authority, "Be silent and come out of this man!" The evil spirit shook the man violently and, with a loud shriek, came out of him.

All the people were astonished and they wondered, "What is this? With what authority he preaches! He even orders evil spirits and they obey him!" And Jesus' fame spread throughout all the country of Galilee.

Commentary

Scholars tell us that today's gospel focuses on who is this Jesus, who speaks with such authority! We can ask ourselves who are we; people unable to recognize God's presence. The bad spirit recognized Jesus as the "holy of God," and even obeyed him when Jesus ordered them to "shut up and leave this man" We fail many times to recognize the new forms of presence of the Lord in our midst, in our brothers and sisters, in the events, in the news; some other times we recognize Him but we fail to obey him. Who are we? Are we worse than the bad spirit of the gospel? Not really, we are not bad; perhaps just blind and deaf to see and listen to the word of God manifested in so many different ways.

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DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Senators' ratings also down

BY R. NAZARENO

THE NET approval ratings of all 24 senators have gone the way of President Maca-pagal-Arroyo's own plunged ratings in December 2001, according to a Pulse Asia survey.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, one of the lead prosecutors in last year's impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada, saw his net approval rating (NAR) drop by 16 percent, from 60 percent in October, when the previous survey was taken, to 44 percent last December.

The NARs of Senate President Franklin Drilon and opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III also suffered substantial decreases of 14 percent each for ratings of 45 percent and 49 percent, respectively.

Senate finance committee chair John Osmeña saw his rating dip by 13 percent from October's 45 percent to 32 percent in December.

Arroyo said he had yet to see a copy of the survey and refused to comment.

Drilon noted that 2001 "was a very difficult year when there were so many challenges."

"The people were not optimistic, but one survey does not determine the course of history," Drilon added.

Former television broadcasters Sen. Noli de Castro and majority leader Loren Legarda-Leviste saw the smallest decreases in their NARs. De Castro led all senators with the highest approval rating at 73 percent, followed by Leviste with 65 percent.

Administration Sen. Juan Flavier was third in the ratings ranking with a 62 percent NAR despite suffering a 10 percent drop in his numbers.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, whose approval rating fell nine points from 62 percent to 53 percent, noted that "times such as these (are when people) are not thoroughly pleased."

"So it is reflected in the survey... (because the people) do not see any concrete steps being taken by the government to relieve the anxiety and apprehension," Angara said.

Minority leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was fifth in the rankings with a 53 percent NAR, down by five percent since October.

Administration Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. also posted a 53 percent NAR, while Sen. Renato Cayetano, who is embroiled in a word war with the minority, was seventh with a 50 percent NAR.

At the bottom of the survey were opposition senators Robert Jaworski, Panfilo Lacson and Teresa Aquino-Oreta, who had NARs of 11, nine and two percent, respectively, for the 22nd to 24th spots.

President Macapagal's own NAR, according to the Pulse Asia survey, dropped six points, from 63 in October to 57 percent in December 2001.

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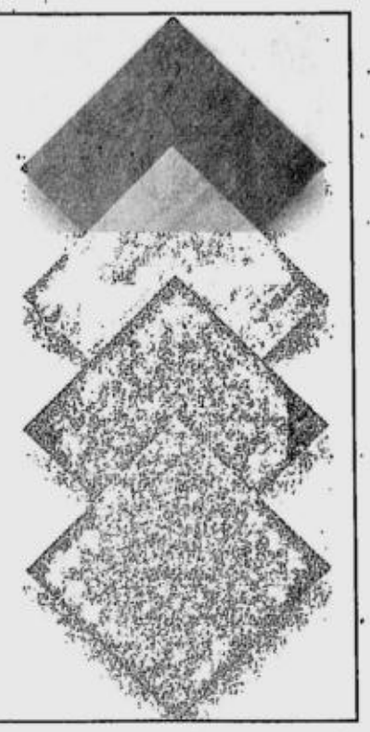

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Who is the true ARMM governor?

(From page A1)

(Republic Act No. 9054) his term of office will expire only at noon of Sept. 30, 2002.

The government was aware that Hussin's assumption of office ahead of Sept. 30, 2002 was defective. Misuari's hold on the position was supposed to legally end only on that date.

The law clearly states that the term of the regional governor "shall begin at noon on the 30th day of September next following the day of the election and shall end at noon of the same date three (3) years thereafter."

To cure that defect, the government took two actions. First, it pushed for the amendment of the ARMM organic law to change that date to something earlier, like within a week from the proclamation of the newly elected ARMM officials.

Second, it tried to persuade the other claimant to the post, Alvarez Isnaji, to resign his post to create a vacancy in the position so the President, by virtue of her power to fill up empty public offices, can legally order Hussin to immediately take over.

The first option was abandoned because Congress was in no mood to give in to Malacañang's request and, besides, the legislators were already enjoying the holiday season. The President apparently did not have sufficient pork barrel funds to convince them to return to work.

The second option was tried. But Malacañang failed to dangle a hard-to-refuse offer to Isnaji that would have encouraged him to resign his post to create a vacancy.

Isnaji, former speaker of the ARMM Regional Assembly who took over from Misuari when the latter fled to Malaysia last year shortly after armed elements allegedly loyal to him attacked several military and police stations in Sulu.

The ARMM vice governor prior to Misuari's flight was Guimid Matalam. He was disqualified from taking over because he was elected congressman in the May 2001 polls. As a result, Isnaji got the position that would have gone to Matalam.

Hussin's earlier efforts to assume the governorship right after the ARMM elections last Nov. 26 were stymied when Isnaji was able to secure an order from a local court restraining him from doing so. But the Court of Appeals later set aside that order, thus enabling Hussin to be formally installed into office by President Macapagal.

Isnaji has filed a petition with the Supreme Court questioning the legality of such installation. Like Misuari, Isnaji believes Hussin's tenure should start only on Sept. 30, 2002.

The case is still pending in the Supreme Court and, if we go by the track record of cases of similar nature, it may take some time before Isnaji's claim can be resolved with finality.

Hasty installation

Pressed for time and aware of the legal consequences of Misuari's expected claim to recover his position, the government disregarded all legal considerations on the issue and inducted Hussin into office.

Why the haste in installing Hussin in spite of the big question mark on the legality of the earlier-than-Sept. 30 transfer of power?

The government was afraid that unless a new ARMM governor was sworn into office, Misuari can legally and morally demand upon his return, whether voluntarily or otherwise, the resumption of his duties and responsibilities as ARMM governor.

His situation is similar to that of Rep. Romeo Jalosjos who, in spite of his conviction and imprisonment for rape, continues to be recognized as duly elected congressman of Zamboanga del Norte. In the case of Jalosjos, he remains entitled to all the rights and privileges that accrue to his office, except attend the sessions of Congress.

'Nino bonito'

With Hussin in actual control of the seat of ARMM government, Misuari can be prevented from taking over the post unless he secures a court order that will unseat Hussin.

Getting that order can take months, if not years. In the meantime, Hussin, the latest *niño bonito* of the administration, will be safely in control of the region.

The timing of Hussin's takeover was perfect. Misuari was outside the country. The country was in a holiday mood. The official who temporarily took over Misuari was a political lightweight.

Unlike Misuari, Isnaji did not have the political (and armed) clout that would have made the government think twice before pushing him out of the ARMM's top post.

It also helped that the Court of Appeals acceded to the government's request that the earlier order of a lower court restraining Hussin's assumption of power be set aside.

Even without that judicial assistance, however, the government would have surely come up with other means to justify the "removal" of Isnaji to pave the way for Hussin's takeover.

A "pro-government" citizen could have questioned Isnaji's assumption of office for failure to comply with some procedural requirements or he could have been suspended for some trumped-up charges that would permit his preventive suspension while the case was under investigation.

Between the legal headache that Isnaji's sidelining might bring about and the adverse effects of Misuari's return to power, the government felt the former was more bearable.

De facto rule

The government's act in immediately swearing Hussin into office after the Court of Appeals lifted the lower court's restraining order was clearly meant to take advantage of the *de facto* rule applied in contested public offices.

This rule provides that when a public official enters into office under a "color of title" or after compliance with substantially all of the requirements for such assumption, he shall be considered a *de facto* (or loosely translated, in fact) public official.

Those who have complied with all the requirements or do not face any question about the legality of their assumption are considered *de jure* public officials.

Except for the timing of his takeover, Hussin has complied with all the requisites of his office. He had been proclaimed by the Commission on Elections. He had been sworn into office by a duly authorized official, in his case, no less than the President. And most importantly, his assumption had been accepted by the other branches of government.

As *de facto* ARMM governor, all the actions and decisions of Hussin are considered valid and binding, unless set aside or modified by a higher authority.

With this mantle of legitimacy and authority, the government can (or better still, is expected to) delay the resolution of the case filed by Isnaji, or Misuari, if he decides to take a similar action, until Sept. 30, 2002.

When that day comes, all contests regarding the validity of his taking over ahead of time become academic or no longer worthy of discussion since the date specified by law as the rightful takeover time had come.

It will not be surprising if the court declares that Hussin was a *de facto* governor from January 2002 to Sept. 30, 2002 and consider all his acts during that period as valid.

The controversy that attended President Macapagal's ascent to power on Jan. 20, 2001 is in for a reprise, although on a smaller scale, at the ARMM.

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CHANGING of the guards: Col. Hermogenes Esperon (left), commander of the 103rd Brigade in Basilan, turns over his command to Col. Alexander Alejo. Esperon takes over the Presidential Security Group.

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Nur's men here . . .

(From page A1)

Commander Jethro, who is in his 40s, said the teams were highly trained in urban warfare techniques such as the use of explosives. Appearing with him during the videotaped interview were four other squad members, mostly in their 30s.

Speaking in Filipino, Commander Jethro said the government knew very well what his group was capable of. "The government knows that we are capable of many things. If a small group can create trouble, can set off bombs, then so can we. We will make sure that we will do more than what smaller groups have done."

He also boasted that regular members of the Moro National Liberation Front, which observes a peace agreement with the government and which effectively ousted Misuari last year, might take part in any "agreed plan of action."

"In number, we are many. And the government doesn't know where we are in Metro Manila or who the MNLF members are. What we will make sure of, is that we will make ourselves felt."

The squad members wore masks, but showed off their firearms. A flag of the MNLF Bangsamoro Armed Forces was placed as backdrop for the interview, which lasted for 12 minutes.

When will they make their move? Commander Jethro said he and his men were only awaiting the results of the motions filed by Misuari's lawyers.

Another squad member who introduced himself as "Commander Rey" said the government could do something to defuse the tension. "Misuari must be seen or at least heard in public," Commander Rey said.

A moderate Muslim group, Maradeka, earlier proposed that President Macapagal-Arroyo visit Misuari as a confidence-building measure. A similar call was raised by the former governor's 26 volunteer lawyers.

Minimal chance

But a government official dismissed reports that groups loyal to Misuari would stage a rescue, saying such an attempt had a minimal chance of succeeding.

Assistant Interior and Local Government Secretary Abraham Iribani said that it would be hard for any group, however highly trained, to penetrate Fort Sto. Domingo, pointing out that the camp is tightly guarded by members of the military's elite Special Action Forces.

"They might manage to get in but they might not be able to get out," he said in a phone interview. "Even if Misuari were detained in Sulu, I don't think the government would allow him to escape. How much more in Laguna?"

Besides, he added, even Misuari's followers in the MNLF would never attempt a rescue, lest they would be accused of violating the peace agreement.

"So the feasibility of Misuari being rescued is almost nil," he said.

Misuari will remain in detention in Fort Sto. Domingo for some time longer, after the court hearing the motion to transfer the venue of his trial confirmed his continued stay there yesterday.

"The Regional Trial Court of Jolo today issued a commitment order confirming the continued stay of Mr. Misuari in Fort Sto. Domingo in Laguna, pending the outcome of the Supreme Court decision on which court will finally handle the case," Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee told reporters yesterday.

Iribani said the public should not be alarmed by any threat to rescue Misuari, noting that such threats come from people who have become emotional over the Moro leader's arrest and detention.

"We should just try to understand these people," he said.

Iribani held a dialogue with Muslim leaders and MNLF commanders in Zamboanga City over the weekend to clarify that Misuari was being detained for rebellion and not because he is Muslim or a member of the Bangsamoro people.

The leaders, he said, had demanded a stop to government operations against Misuari's renegade followers, saying these were taking a heavy toll on the lives and property of the people there.

"The civilians are the ones suffering from these operations. These (operations) are not conducive to the government efforts to reach out to the MNLF leaders," Iribani said, quoting the leaders.

There have been sporadic skirmishes between government troops and renegade MNLF rebels, who were being pursued in connection with the attack on military outposts in Jolo, Sulu, in November last year.

In Tacloban City, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina said the government would leave it up to the Supreme Court to decide on whether the trial of detained Moro leader Nur Misuari will be in Jolo or inside Fort Sto. Domingo.

He noted that there was already a pending petition filed before the high court. "Unless the Supreme Court decides (on the pending petition), (Misuari) will stay at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa," Lina said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez filed a petition with the Supreme Court on Jan. 8, seeking the transfer of the trial venue because of the security risk posed by Misuari's armed followers in Jolo.

He proposed that the Misuari trial be held inside the fort.

But Laguna residents and officials want Misuari removed from Fort Sto. Domingo for fear that his armed followers might launch an attempt to spring him ahead of his trial.

But Lina, a former governor of Laguna, assured them that Misuari's continued detention in Fort Sto. Domingo would not put their province at risk.

He said there was only a remote possibility that Misuari's supporters would attempt to rescue their leader from detention because of the tight security measures imposed.

Lina stressed that there was no need to be alarmed because "the national government can very well handle the situation."

The government has not deprived Misuari of his human rights, Lina added, although the renegade governor is still not allowed to conduct interviews with the media. ***With reports from TJ Burgonio, Norman Bordadora and Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau. (Contributor De la Cruz is a reporter-anchor for UHF channel Net 25.)***

NO INTERVIEWS

Court puts gag on Erap

By Volt Contreras

WITHOUT explanation, the Sandiganbayan yesterday limited Joseph Estrada's access to the media, just when he resumed attending hearings after almost a two-month absence.

The "gag order" came at a time when, Estrada lawyer Raymund Fortun said, the deposed president's views on the first anniversary of his ouster were being sought by local and foreign journalists.

Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro, acting chair of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division, which is hearing Estrada's case, ordered the court sheriff to ban media interviews of Estrada while he is in the court building.

She gave the verbal order on Sunday, according to Ed Urieta, chief of the sheriff's office.

But in the middle of yesterday's hearing, defense lawyers Cleofe Versola and Jose Flaminiano asked De Castro to clarify her gag order.

The two lawyers wondered why the order was only given when the plunder trial was on its 18th hearing, when the accused used to be allowed to give interviews usually in the holding area.

De Castro, after a huddle with the other members of the division—Justices Narciso Nario and Nicodemo Ferrer—relaxed her order and gave Estrada permission to hold a "10-minute" press conference after the hearing.

She made it clear though that the permission was only for yesterday's hearing since the court still had to discuss the "parameters within which the accused could exercise his right (to speak to the media)."

She also warned the Estrada camp not to discuss the merits of his case in the media, invoking the sub judice rule.

In an interview over dzMM after the hearing, Fortun said requests for interviews of Estrada have been pouring in, seeking his comments on the first anniversary of his ouster.

The lawyer stopped short of linking the gag order to the coming observance of the anniversary on Jan. 20.

In his strictly timed press conference, Estrada said he still considered himself "the constitutionally, legally elected president (chosen) by the people (to govern) up to 2004."

Asked whether he was still contemplating a political comeback, he said, "My political career ends in 2004."

Estrada laughed off reports his supporters were planning violent acts to mark the anniversary of People Power II, which caused his ouster.

"I don't believe so. These people are voicing their feelings because they are the ones affected by the economic crisis. They feel they have been left behind. This doesn't mean they are out to destabilize the government, they have no capability," Estrada said.

Estrada said though that he is open to any offers of "reconciliation" by the administration.

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Foes, not Reds, did Punzalan in–NBI

By Philip C. Tubeza

POLITICAL enemies, not the communists, have emerged as the primary suspects in the killing last year of Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan, the National Bureau of Investigation said yesterday.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said political vendetta was the "strongest" angle in Punzalan's murder as he presented yesterday one of the alleged hit men who gunned down the congressman in May last year.

Mario Rivera, 50, a former Civilian Armed Forces, Geographical Unit member and a farm caretaker, was arrested inside Hacienda Maloles in Candelaria, Quezon, on Saturday.

Wycoco said that two eyewitnesses—a security officer of the late congressman and a resident of Tiaong, Quezon—had positively identified Rivera from a line-up as one of those who shot Punzalan, Wycoco said.

"It appears that he is really a professional hit man," he added.

He said Rivera had a checkered criminal record and was actually arrested on the basis of a warrant for another murder.

Rivera, who was said to have been hiding in Candelaria since the assassination, has been charged this time with double murder.

Investigators said they are still trying to find out more about Rivera, particularly if he has links with the other political clans in the area.

"Of course, there is a mastermind. They (the victim's relatives) do not believe that he (Rivera) could have done this on his own," Wycoco said.

The 56-year-old Punzalan was assassinated while attending an election rally on May 12 last year at the Marcial Punzalan Sr. Memorial Sports Complex in Tiaong, Quezon.

Punzalan died from three bullet wounds in the head. His cousin, Conrado Soriano, 59, was also killed.

The congressman was the 56th fatality in the violence during the run-up to the May 14 elections.

"As of now, the strongest angle is that it was a political killing," although the NBI is not discounting the communist New People's Army, Wycoco said.

The NPA's Melito Glor Command had owned up to killing Punzalan for his alleged "long list of crimes against the people."

But the victim's relatives maintained that the congressman was killed for political reasons.

"We stand by our belief that the NPA has nothing to do with the killing of our brother," said Tess Punzalan-Ward.

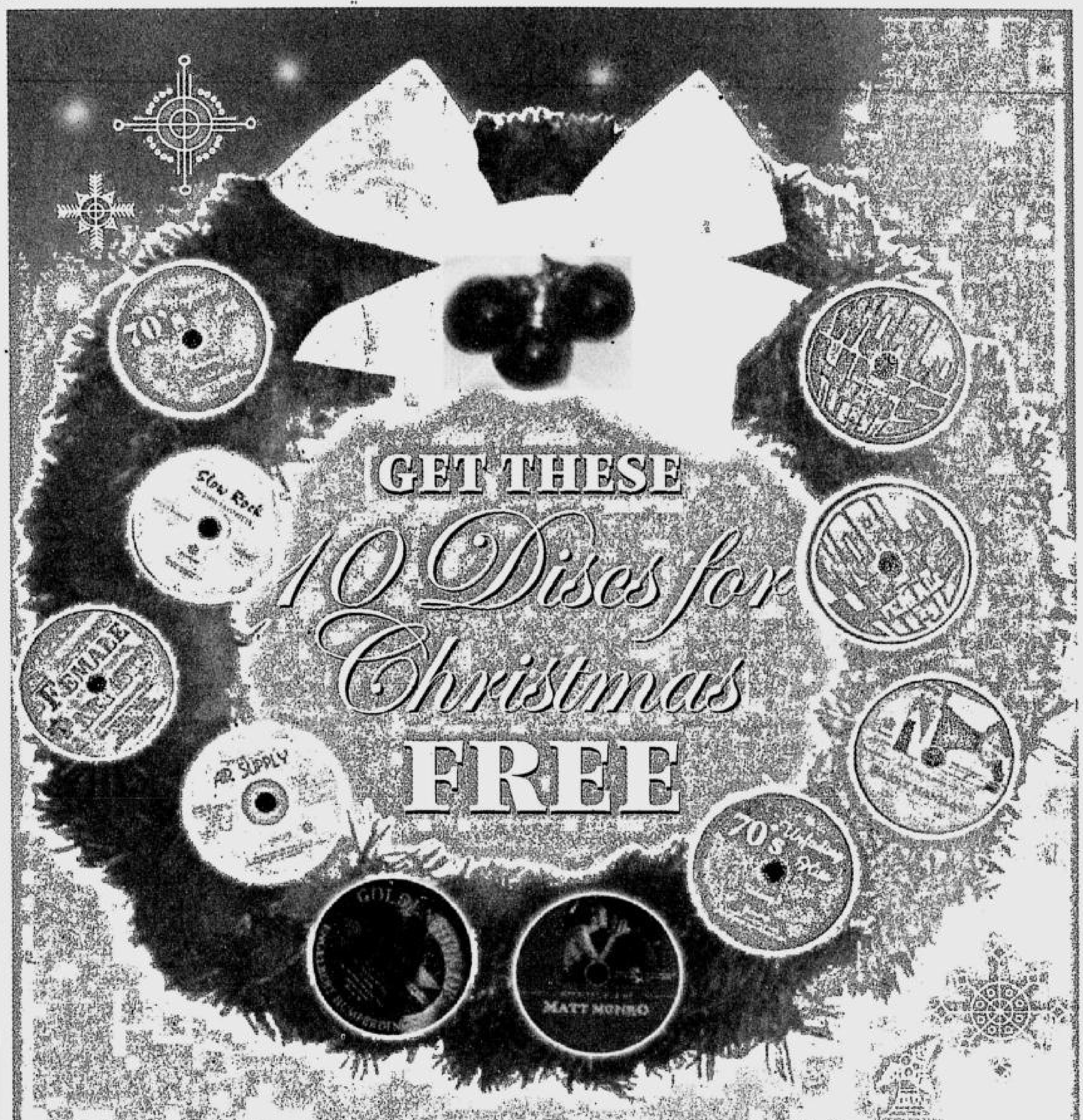
"I think this started with the slaying of my father (Punzalan Sr.)," said Cristy Punzalan-Singson.

Punzalan Sr. was mayor of San Antonio when he was killed by hired guns in 1984. His family has blamed the Escueta clan for that murder.

"We thank them (the NBI) very much. But this is not the end. There was not just one gunman. He (the congressman) was already down (after Rivera shot him) when somebody shot him again," Singson said.

In October last year, the NBI filed double murder charges against a certain Andro "Ramil" Quitalig, a hired killer of Barangay Bucal, Sariaya, Quezon, who was also allegedly involved in Punzalan's killing.

Quitalig is still at large.



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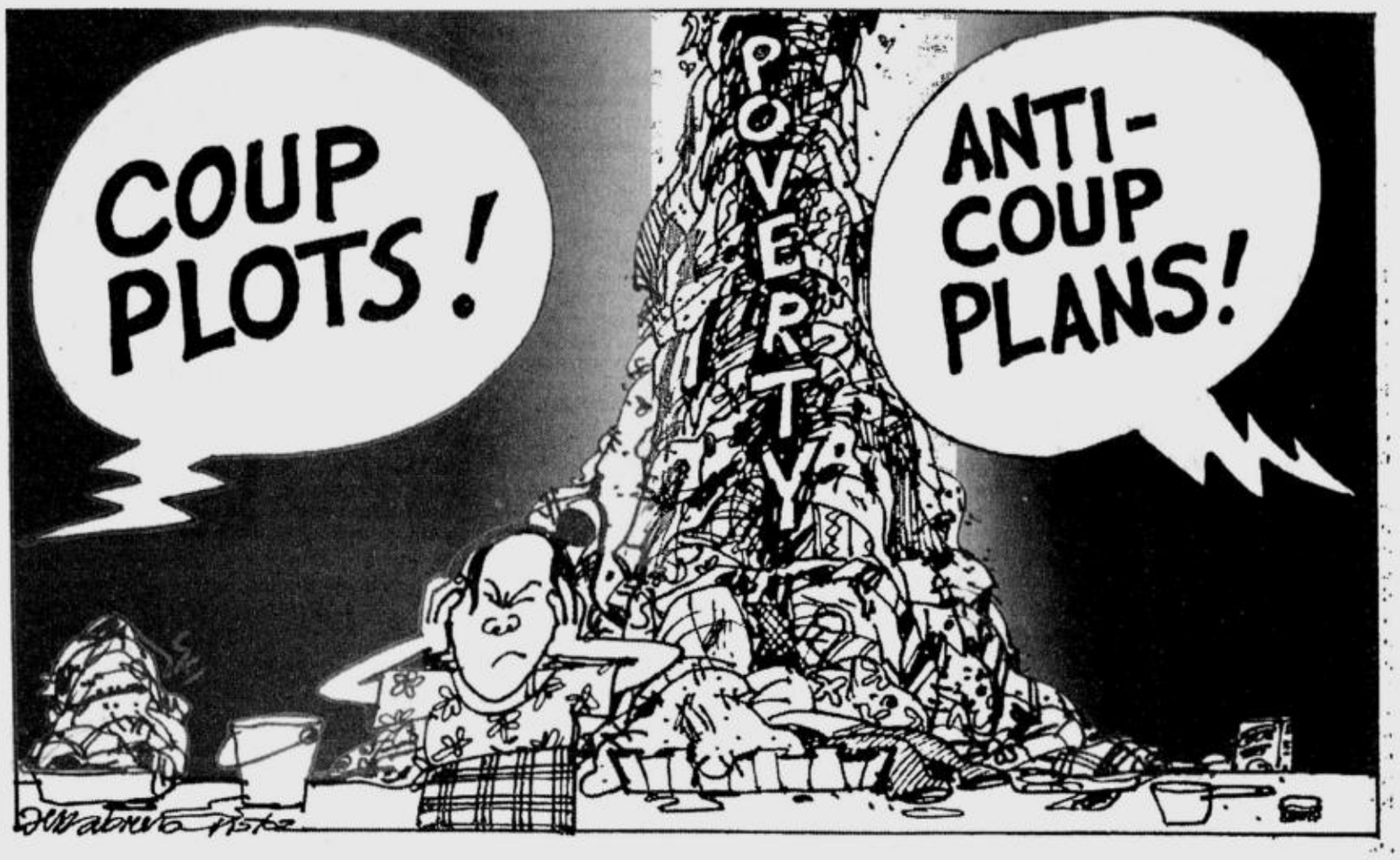

Eye-opener

TRUST movie director Marilou Diaz-Abaya to come up with controversial and thought-provoking films. In 1998 it was "Jose Rizal," a movie about the life of the national hero. In 1999 it was "Muro Ami," a film about the exploitation of children engaged in *muro ami* fishing. Now it is "Bagong Buwan," the first serious Filipino movie about the Mindanao conflict.

EDITORIAL

"Bagong Buwan" is becoming the most widely discussed, most analyzed and most talked-about Filipino movie since "Jose Rizal." This is all to the good because the controversy over the film also promotes a general awareness of the decades-old Mindanao problem.

The movie is not flawless—no, no one claims that it is perfect. One critic, for instance, complains that it has "too much bombast and speechifying," that it has "a dialogue-heavy script," that it presents "a one-sided view of the conflict in favor of the Muslims." Another notes that it engages in a lot of "ponderous debate," that it suffers from "didacticism" and that in it "drama is often displaced by polemics" taking place at some crucial scenes.

Still another reviewer pointed out that "Bagong Buwan" suffers from cultural and historical lapses "that ruin an otherwise good story." He says that it is "a hodgepodge of cliché representations," that there is "no clear milieu" and that it is "a simplistic analysis of the origins of the Moro problem."

And yet another reviewer says that the movie was too biased in favor of the Muslims. Former beauty queen Margie Moran-Floirendo, whose Bahaghari Productions co-produced the movie with Star Cinema, denies that it is biased in favor of the Muslims. It is told from the Muslim Filipinos' point of view, but she says "it is neither pro-Muslim nor pro-Christian; it is pro-peace."

Its admirers and defenders say that "Bagong Buwan" is a "disturbing" and even "dangerous" film—dangerous in a positive sense because it challenges the "deepest biases" of the Christian majority.

One columnist says that viewing the film was a "moving and outlook-changing experience." Many editors and reporters agree, recalling that many in the audience were in tears while watching the dramatic and heart-rending segments of the movie.

But most reviewers say that "Bagong Buwan" certainly presents a strong case for understanding Muslim Filipinos and viewing them as "normal people." Biases, prejudices and wrong attitudes built up over the centuries have created a wrong perception of Muslim Filipinos as people to be wary of, to be feared, even to be hated. But now, this movie has opened the eyes of thousands of people and has done for the Muslim Filipinos what the merchant's speech did for Jews in Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice." ("If you prick us, do we not bleed?"...etc.)

Abaya says she feels that the Muslims are misunderstood because people know very little about them. That is a natural reaction. People tend to keep away from and be afraid of other people, organizations or things that they know little about. But now this movie may do its part in helping Christians get a better understanding of Muslim Filipinos and the Mindanao conflict. A better understanding can help pave the way to peace in the strife-torn South.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, in endorsing the movie, rightly said that the ultimate lesson of the movie is "a new paradigm of hope." "A culture of peace in our land can be built on mutual respect, understanding and dialogue," he said.

Another lesson of the film, which has become a universal truism, is that no one actually wins a war. Everyone loses. And the first to lose are the civilians, the non-combatants who are caught in the crossfire between the contending forces. "Bagong Buwan" effectively brings this message across to the audience and this is why, many of them, empathizing with the refugees and evacuees, are moved to tears.

It took a lot of courage and determination on the part of people like Floirendo, the Lopezes of Star Cinema, Diaz-Abaya and the talent of actors like Cesar Montano, Amy Austria and Caridad Sanchez among other people, as well as the technical expertise of scores of other artists and technicians to produce "Bagong Buwan."

We hope that not just the ordinary movie-going crowd will view it but also policymakers and decisionmakers of the government, the private sector, the academe and religious, political and civic organizations so that they may begin to have a better understanding of the Mindanao problem. If "Bagong Buwan" erects even a small bridge of understanding between Christian and Muslim Filipinos, it will have been a success as a piece of art and communication.

Good news and bad news for QC residents

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AFTER COMING from the Kapihan sa Manila forum at the Manila Hotel, I have good news and bad news to report. (Guests were Secretary for Housing Michael Defensor, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Public Works Undersecretary Manuel Bonoan, Assistant Secretaries Salvador Pleyto and Patrick Gatan, and District Engineer Oscar Cammayo.)

The good news is that the vendors blocking the Manggahan portion of Commonwealth Avenue will be gone starting this week. The vendors were allowed to ply their trade there to give them an opportunity to earn a living during the Christmas holidays. But now that the Christmas season is over, they have only until today, Jan. 15, to stay there. Starting tomorrow, they will have to stay behind the barricades separating the street from the sidewalk and leave Commonwealth Avenue clear for vehicles. Some will be assigned stalls in the market constructed along Commonwealth.

There is a sorry and infuriating story behind this market. The market was constructed especially for the Manggahan vendors so they would not encroach on Commonwealth. But before the market could even be finished, the opportunistic vendors had already sold their rights to equally opportunistic merchants. So now the sizes of the stalls are being reduced to accommodate at least some of the vendors and get them off the streets.

The Department of Public Works and Highways is spending hundreds of millions of pesos to widen Commonwealth Avenue which is perennially clogged with traffic. When finished, Commonwealth will be a 16-lane avenue, wider than Edsa. It already has a vehicle underpass at the corner of Batasan Road, beside the Sandiganbayan, and will have a flyover at the corner of Don Antonio Street, beside the Ever-Gotesco mall, and at the corner of Luzon Avenue.

But all of that money, effort and projects will go for naught if vendors continue to block Commonwealth. At Manggahan, only two lanes on each side are left open to vehicles. The rest are occupied by vendors and traffic slows down to a crawl here.

Of the estimated 6,000 vendors there, by the way, less than half come from Quezon City. The rest are from neighboring cities and municipalities. What's more, some entrepreneurs are selling or renting out pushcarts to vendors. Instead of having just one *bilao*, the average vendor now have three *bilaos* of merchandise in the pushcart. The vendors will have to be relocated.

So that the vendors will not be deprived of a livelihood, Mayor Belmonte is thinking of copying the "weekend market" of Bangkok where a huge park or open space is allowed to be occupied by vendors on Saturdays and Sundays. In Bangkok, they start arriving Friday evenings and leave the park clean as a whistle before Monday morning. That "weekend market" has become a tourist attraction and shoppers from all over Thailand and neighboring countries go there to buy almost anything at ridiculously low prices. In two days, the vendors earn more than they would ever earn from a week of vending in other streets.

Mayor Belmonte is also thinking of closing some side streets to vehicular traffic and turn them over to vendors provided they leave the main streets to vehicles.

The city government, by the way, has done a good job of clearing the Cubao area of sidewalk vendors. As a result, more shoppers now go to the Araneta Center and the shops there have reported an increase in business. Just shows you what political will can do.

The other good news is that City Hall is revising its zoning ordinance. No malls will now be allowed to be built along main streets. Henceforth, they will have to be located at least one kilometer away from main streets. The new zoning will achieve two things: the malls will not contribute to traffic buildup on main streets, as the Shoemart, Robinsons and Ever-Gotesto chains have done on Edsa, Commonwealth and Rizal Avenues, Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard and elsewhere. And two, the new malls will contribute to the development of the areas around them as they have done in the United States and other countries.

Because of leniency in the old zoning ordinances, the DPWH will have to build expensive flyovers on Edsa and West Avenue, beside SM North Edsa, and at Commonwealth Avenue, beside Ever-Gotesco. All the taxes paid by these shopping chains are not even enough to pay for these flyovers.

Now we come to the bad news. The opening of the open dump in Rodriguez (Montalban), Rizal—if it comes to pass (it still has no environmental compliance certificates and the Rodriguez residents are opposing it)—will also be the headache of Quezon City. More than 2,000 tons of garbage will pass every day through Quezon City from other Metro Manila cities and municipalities on the way to the Rodriguez dump. That means 900 garbage trucks, in addition to the present number of vehicles, will pass through Commonwealth Avenue and perfume the Sandiganbayan and the House of Representatives along Batasan Road or the homes along Litex Road with their cargoes.

The other bad news is that an army engineering battalion cut a swath of destruction through the forest of the La Mesa Dam watershed, mowing down thousands of trees, to build a road to the Rodriguez dump. That project also has no environment compliance certificate. Moreover, all watersheds are protected by the Nipas Act (National Integrated Protected Areas System) and cutting that swath through the La Mesa forest is a violation of at least two laws.

So why did the army battalion risk prosecution for violating our laws? Because the road was ordered by no less than the commander in chief, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. In her oath of office, the President swore to protect and implement the laws of the nation and punish those who violate them. But who would punish those who violate their oath of office?

Why only Lumbao?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RIC Valmonte, Ronald Lumbao's lawyer, wants the arrest warrant issued against his client recalled.

Well, yes and no.

The no has to do with crime and punishment. Where there is a crime, there must be punishment. If there is any lesson this country would do well to learn, it is that. Too many criminals have already escaped justice in the name of reconciliation, or mercy, or Christian charity. Well, there is nothing Christian or charitable about condoning evil, there is only everything cynical and uncharitable—to its victims above all—about it. Lumbao stands accused of inciting a mob to riot in Mendiola last May 1, which was how "Edsa III" ended, not with a whimper but with a bloody bang. That is a serious crime and a grave injustice, not least to the mob itself, which got sent like sheep to the slaughter. Its perpetrator should be punished.

But this brings us to the yes part. For Valmonte has a point too. Why only Lumbao? Lumbao may have been the gun that fired the bullet that was the riot in Mendiola, but somebody pulled the trigger. You do not have to go far to know who they were. The television footage of "Edsa III" clearly shows so. They are Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Santiago, J.V. Ejercito, Gringo Honasan and Ping Lacson. They were the ones who for several nights roused the crowd that massed at the Edsa Shrine to uncontrollable fury and sent them storming into Mendiola. The "sent storming" is literal. "*Sugod*" was the word repeatedly used by Santiago, Enrile and Ejercito in particular. They were not talking in metaphors.

If I recall right, only Enrile and Honasan were slapped with charges. The others were not charged at all, not even Santiago who made it a point to draw a television crew's attention to a gun she had laid on top of a desk in case the authorities dared arrest her. She did not make it entirely clear what she intended to do with the gun. People did hope she might use it on herself and do everyone—including herself—a favor. But no arresting officers came and so prevented what might have been a happy turn of events.

Enrile is out on bail, Honasan and Lacson are senators, Santiago is free to act like Sisa, and J.V. Ejercito is reaping the fruits of his father's pillage. And they want to jail Lumbao? That has scapegoat written in capital letters.

The law is either universal or it is not law at all. Either you jail all of them, or you allow all of them to post bail. The first is easily the better course, but it is clearly one President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is loath to take. Uneasy sits the crown on her head. But you may not punish the one and not the other, you may not apply the full majesty of the law to the one and not to the other. You do that, and you may not expect to impart object lessons in crime and punishment. You may expect to drive home only lessons in selective law. And selective law is not law, it is injustice.

But the PNP says it wants to serve the warrant of arrest on Lumbao because he is also currently part of a plot to mount an "Edsa IV," or at least to disrupt the Edsa II celebrations. The PNP says Lumbao is planning to lead the same group, which was the mob last year, to the same place, which is Mendiola, to do the same thing, which is riot near the official residence of the President.

That is the worst excuse of all. Never mind that serving the warrant comes a year too late. But why should an attempt to mount an "Edsa IV," assuming Lumbao is really contemplating one, constitute a crime? Why should he be prevented from doing so? At the very least, as Valmonte points out, Linda Montayre is openly saying she intends to lead one, and nobody is arresting her. At the very most, any display of people power, or attempt to muster one, is not only perfectly legitimate, it is vigorously endorsed by the Constitution as a means to redress grievances.

It is one thing to mount a coup, it is another to launch a protest against government. Those are two different things. Cory Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Fidel Ramos and Ms Macapagal do not have a franchise on people power, or Edsa, which it has become synonymous with, notwithstanding that they think it is poaching on their private turf to use the Edsa Shrine for that purpose.

Preventing any group from marching to Mendiola on the expectation that they are bound to riot is prior censorship. It violates the Constitution and it is a crime. Erap does keep saying he never did that in his time. What irony if that should happen in the political order Edsa II birthed.

I've always said mounting people power, or an Edsa, was the hardest thing on earth, and I have never ceased to be amazed by people thinking it can be done at the drop of a hat. But government arrests Lumbao now, or prevents the rabble that flocked to "Edsa III" from gathering again if it wants to, and we truly might be looking at the possibility of another Edsa. Maybe it won't happen at once, but it will happen in the future. These are the seeds that make for that bitter harvest. The double standard—one set of rules for the rich and another for the poor—is not going to be lost on the poor, with the most frightening implications. Lest we forget, that was what the explosion that was "Edsa III" was all about, the poor seeing themselves as the victims of selective justice.

None of the events since that time could have helped to change their perception of things. Certainly not the subsequent saturation drives in the slum areas to flush out dissident elements while their leaders remained free to run around, and even run for public office. Edsa I and Edsa II had one thing in common, which was the sense of unbridled outrage the people felt at the spectacle of law being used to thwart justice. That was what Marcos did in cheating Aquino in the "snap elections," and that was what the 11 pro-Erap senators did in refusing to allow the second envelope to be opened. The people rose to defy unjust law, and proclaim their will as the ultimate source of power.

People who do not heed their history are doomed to repeat it.

Our worst enemies

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FROM THE REACTIONS of sober-minded media personalities to all the coup rumors and planned mass actions, it is obvious that like this columnist, they too are sick and tired of all the attempts to destabilize the government. For these are coming at a time when serious economic and financial problems beset the country and the rest of the world and when we need foreign investments to get the economy moving toward recovery. The bankruptcy of Enron, one of the largest corporations in the US, and the scandalous attempts to cover it up could become as serious as the Sept. 11 attacks in terms of repercussions on the world's largest economy. We have to brace for difficult times ahead, which means we should stay united.

* * *

Standard's Emil Jurado points out that about 70 foreign correspondents have arrived in anticipation of unrest and destabilization. Jurado rightly opines that all their stories are hurting this country abroad, and concludes that "we are our worst enemies." I recall how foreign investments were coming in during the time of Cory Aquino at a rate unduplicated since, but they all dried up after the series of failed coup attempts by the RAM, damaging our prospects for recovery.

The Star's Boo Chanco had this to say: "All these self-destructive talk of destabilization moves on the part of military and civilian elements who want to overuse the people power concept only work against us. We are distracted from the tasks we should be doing on the economic front. We scare ourselves uselessly and make ourselves our worst enemy. Enough already. Let's try to survive this difficult year ahead and make our system work. We simply have to help GMA improve the economic climate because that's what will put food on our tables...Then we can elect her or elect her successor on the basis of what she has done or failed to do. But we should stop all the nonsense of Edsa 4 unless our fatal national suicidal streak is really too strong to resist."

Bulletin columnist Zeneida Amador speaks about a neighbor and fellow jogger who lamented that "nobody seems to want to give this government a chance. They all want (President Macapagal) to fail so that they can pursue their own interests and agendas."

* * *

Like my sober colleagues, I am angry and upset that a couple of young military officers have nothing better to do than to destroy our prospects at economic recovery and frighten away the foreign investors with their coup plots. I am upset that people with no credentials whatsoever, like ex-nun Linda Montayre, who cannot even answer credibly the charges of embezzlement made by her own half-brother Ed Olaguer and who started hitting the government after her husband was eased out of the PCSO, is given all the media space to destabilize the administration, by hurling charges that are completely unsubstantiated. Montayre is part of a tricycle-sized group whose founder, Eliza Uy-Salapantan, resigned months ago due to differences with her. More recently two nuns who used to be part of that group also resigned. That means Montayre is left with just Salvador Enriquez, who should have the decency to resign his seat in a major government subsidiary. How can the media give credence to such "leaders"?

* * *

Earlier I reported how the president of the Cambodian National Assembly, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, had treated Speaker Jose de Venecia and his delegation of businessmen and government officials to a rare al fresco breakfast in the ruins of the 12th century Bayon Temples in the thickly forested Angkor complex in Cambodia, complete with Apsara dancers the other week. My dzRH co-host, Cecile Alvarez, quipped that JDV should also reciprocate by treating Ranariddh to a five-star breakfast at the Banawe Rice Terraces, since this would be the ultimate treat for anyone in this country.

I thought that was an idle quip, until Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, Cecile's better half, called up to point out that in 1995, when he was still a senator and environment committee chair, he hosted such a breakfast in the rice terraces for Prince Alfred von Leichenstein, who headed the Vienna Peace Movement, in an effort to drum up support for the preservation of the terraces. Unfortunately, the prince couldn't make it. Instead Alvarez had breakfast with Bill O'Boyle, a top oil executive from Texas, who promptly fell in love with the terraces and remains a good friend of Filipinos.

Come to think of it, Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon should promote a breakfast-sunrise watch at the Banawe Rice Terraces as a prime tourist attraction. And in case you readers still haven't seen those fabulous terraces, these months are a good time to do so.

* * *

One campaign we all should support is the "Buy Pinoy, Save Jobs" movement recently launched by local entrepreneurs, including Raul Concepcion, John Ng, Miguel Varela and Benjamin Chua. This movement is not original, for the readers will recall that after Sept. 11, there was a move to rally American consumers to patronize their own products in order to keep the damaged US economy moving. The Buy Pinoy Movement is appealing to all patriotic Filipinos to buy goods that are made and packaged here, so that our factories and companies will be able to save the jobs of our countrymen. I join this appeal. It's good to note that President Macapagal leads in this effort as she patronizes only local couturiers and shoe manufacturers. Let's buy RP not only because it's patriotic, but because they're also good.

For instance, try looking at our RP-made off-the-rack clothes in the malls, and you will realize how good they have become. Last Christmas, Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla gifted me with a Leyte-made bag made of gold-dyed *sinamay*, embroidered with some beads. It was so lovely that my visiting US-based sister in law, Julie Cunanan-Angulo, promptly sequestered it. I'm also happy to note that the Association of Negros Producers are going to display Negros' products in Milan, Italy, next month. The ANP produces a variety of great products and it has helped turn the island's economy around by providing many jobs to poor families.

* * *

The Buy Filipino Movement has extended its appeal to include patronage of local airlines, arguing that we will be helping save many jobs in the airlines, hotels and tourism-related outfits. I have no problem with that for I have been flying Philippine Air Lines for many years now, and have taken Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific on occasion locally. Late last year my husband and I took PAL to and from Los Angeles, enroute to Mexico, paying our way in full, and we were quite happy with the smooth landings and consistently good in-flight service. During the holidays my daughter took PAL from Bangkok to Manila and was very satisfied with the service.

Happiness debated

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

REACTIONS to the columns on the "happiness" of Filipinos, in Hong Kong, in the Philippines or elsewhere, ranged from heartfelt agreement to skepticism to disdain.

One reader, Alona Laplana, agreed with the thesis, saying that the growing "preoccupation" with honing skills and making the grade, especially in the corporate sector, has led a growing number of Filipinos to "give less time for interaction, *bayanihan*" (with the) individual becoming "more sacred than the community." She adds: "That's why I envy our domestic help and maybe the local proletariat because their happiness is genuine and their faith and *pakikiramay* are so true."

Roberto Castrence from Washington, D.C., however, said he was "appalled how a respectable columnist from the most prestigious Philippine paper could be sucked in by such a shallow study."

Well, first of all, the admittedly shallow study, conducted in the course of a Sunday's stroll through Statue Park in Hong Kong and through interviews, has some basis in other, more broadly based surveys. More than once, surveys conducted across different countries and cultures have produced findings where Filipinos ranked, if not at the top then very near the top, of the "happiness" index.

Castrence wonders if the writer was not taken by the Filipino tendency to put up a cheerful front before strangers. "Is the author aware of the Filipina's character of maintaining decorum at all cost, of her shame of losing face? How does he know that the Filipinas do not suffer depression and drug abuse? By asking them? Which Filipina or Filipino or even non-Filipino will answer that they are depressed when you ask them?" What are we to make of the surveys, then? If the Filipino respondents were merely "saving face," then are Filipinos simply untrustworthy respondents? Could not the other nationals have been doing the same? What accounts then for the disparity in results?

***

IS dwelling on the outward proof of happiness, or cheerfulness, of the Filipinas in Hong Kong making light of their very real travails and hardships? I think neither The Economist, nor I, in mentioning the amazing good spirits of the women, meant to downplay or trivialize the real labor and political issues they confront. But to say they are only "pretending" to be happy is to downplay and trivialize the resilience of human nature, Filipino or not.

Jess Borgonia, writing from the United States, posits that the Filipinas of Hong Kong only look happy because they have no other choice. "There is no basis for using the domestic helpers in Hong Kong to arrive at a very generalized assumption of Filipino attitude," he says. If the women had both the means and the opportunity, he wrote, they would probably behave in the same manner that Filipino migrants elsewhere, particularly in the United States, do during their leisure time. And that is, entertain themselves in the privacy of their homes and with their families.

Granted, there is some truth to this. But how to explain the gaiety of Filipino protest actions? At Edsa I and then at Edsa II (and okay, even at the Edsa *Puwera*), there was an undercurrent of anger, protest, resentment and disgust. But people were smiling, singing, dancing and eating their way to their destiny. We didn't all choose to sit at home and follow events on TV.

***

"KA RUBEN" Dimaculangan, writing from Spain proffers quite a different perspective on the plight and "happiness" of Filipina DHs.

Writing in Filipino, he says that we would be even more touched by the plight of Filipinas in Hong Kong if we realized that wages in Hong Kong are on average lower than those in Europe. Second, that Chinese employers are more oppressive employers than Italians, French and Spaniards. In Europe, he said, domestics are protected by labor unions. In Spain, Spanish lawyers help foreign domestics against abusive employers.

But, visiting Hong Kong last year, he did find the Filipinas still exhibiting a remarkable cheeriness. "Deep inside, I wanted to feel sorry for them, even if I know that they don't want pity. What they want is for conditions to improve in the Philippines...I really admire them, for even if they earn such a small sum, they are still able to save and send money back home. This just points out to me that even sorrier are Filipinos back home, who may not be able to travel abroad, but through hard work are still able to create happy families."

Matt Zobian, commenting on the Filipino trait of "inclusivity," writes that the flip-side of this is Filipino "exclusivity."

"Witness the Filipino habit of forming fractious, often contentious affinity groups within a single community, the deadly fights between college 'fraternities,' the political clubs that masquerade as 'parties,' the *barkada* of the elite that fosters cronyism...While almost every society has at least some such elements of social tension and dysfunction, it maddeningly thrives and persists in the Philippines.

"How must the Filipino character change? When will Filipinos make their country the kind that most Filipinos want to live in?"

When indeed?

***

ON ANOTHER column, that on my "Sutokil adventure," Salven Lagumbay of our sister publication, the Cebu Daily News, writes that this tourist attraction is under threat, since the new mayor of Lapu-Lapu City, Arturo Radaza "is in the process of demolishing those outlets for the simple reason that they failed to get the necessary papers."

Adds Lagumbay: "Those stalls have been there since time immemorial, and in the process, they have become a popular Cebuano institution and landmark. But because Radaza thinks the owners of Sutokil were supporting defeated ex-Mayor Ernest Weigel, now he's getting even."

Precisely what Zobian decried in his letter. Could we say then that we Filipinos still manage to be happy—or at least appear happy, despite our leaders and politicians?

A little bit of sunshine

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

MY good friend, Prof. Felipe de Leon of the University of the Philippines, is quoted in the Jan. 4 edition of The Economist as concluding that the Filipino believes himself to be happier in comparison to other Asians or Westerners. After a decade of studying the phenomenon (he was perhaps incredulous), De Leon posits that this is due to the fact that our culture is the most inclusive and open. Despite centuries of Chinese influence, we are the opposite of their hierarchical culture and don't put much weight on saving "face." (This might be unfortunate, since some of our thieves are getting awfully brazen.)

Filipinos do not believe they are islands unto themselves; they believe existence to be interdependent. The culture is based on sharing, on the idea of *kapwa*. "Guests in Filipino homes...are usually expected to stay in the hosts' own nuptial bed, while the displaced couple sleeps on the floor," de Leon said. "Small talk tends to get so intimate so quickly that many Westerners recoil."

I can attest to the latter, having eavesdropped on two Filipinas talking to other overseas workers in an airport lounge recently.

"Where's your father from?" one of them asked.

"Mangatarem in Pangasinan," said the other.

"*Tiga Bulacan kami,*" the first girl said.

Now, mind you, no one had asked her for the information. The second Filipina was explaining how she was just going home for a visit. "*Kasi ike*-claim *ako. Puede naman maiwan doon. Hindi naman sila gaanong stricto.*"

The desire of Filipinos to connect with others helps to allay the loneliness overseas Filipino workers suffers. The Economist reporters took a look at Filipinas spending their free time in Hong Kong around Statue Square on a Sunday. The women were clustered according to their provinces. Nearest the statue were the Ilocanas, under a bus stop sign were the Visayans, and closer to City Hall were the Cebuanas. "Hong Kong's Filipinas...replicate their village communities, and these surrogate families form a first circle of shared being." Many who arrive have relatives working in Hong Kong already and "gossip from home spreads like wildfire." What happened to so-and-so? The last time we saw her she didn't look too good. Or is it true Pedro and Maria are breaking up? Sometimes it's our *kababayans* who receive the news ahead and pass it on to us, what with e-mail being so handy.

It is true that Filipinos abroad like to hear news about friends and acquaintances and the latest political *tsismis*. (I was asked whether Ms Macapagal was having an affair, and I had to answer that I had no idea what they were talking about, which was kind of disappointing for them and for me. Heaven knows where the woman would find the time, though. It's exhausting enough trying to juggle all the elements, and she would have a lover *pa?*)

While perhaps the information could, strictly speaking, constitute gossip, it really is more like keeping in touch. It's not prurient interest at work but a desire not to lose contact. On the other hand it occurred to me that this would no longer be true for their children, for the ties by then would have been severed.

Although there are groupings in Statue Square in Hong Kong, this doesn't mean you're not free to walk around and join others. As a matter of fact, Indonesian, Chinese and other foreigners who drop by are invited to share their snacks, expressing the very welcoming attitude typical of Filipinos. You will note that our welcome almost always involves food. It would indeed be strange if we had visitors and didn't even offer them a glass of water.

The Filipina is strongest in her faith. Asked whether she's happy, the answer is, "Yes because I love God." Sixty-five percent of Filipinos feel close to God, according to a survey, and communicate with Him often. This may account for the low percentages of depression, suicide and virtually zero incidence of drug abuse among OFWs.

"The concretization of the idea of *kapwa* is best exemplified by the overseas worker's focus on helping her family out. On Sundays, she shops for T-shirts and toys at a mall nearby to send home. Most of her monthly salary is spent for others in the family not on herself. An apocryphal story is going around about a corpse that was sent home: when the coffin was opened, the corpse was covered with padded bras, platform shoes, Nike trainers—all neatly tagged with the correct addresses."

On the other hand perhaps it's not such a good idea that we're so content with our "fate." While I can understand that the poor will always be with us, I doubt that Christ meant the abject poverty of our fellowmen living under bridges and culverts. I find it difficult to accept being told some ridiculous story (remember Maceda in the impeachment proceedings saying Mr. Go and that other fellow just walked into his office and took it over but he didn't know either of them?) and you're suppose to just sit there and take it. Or the fact that there just isn't any accounting to the people as far as government agencies are concerned. (If there is, I want to see the PCGG's.)

So, *mga kababayan,* for the coming year anyway can you stop being so happy and demand your due? Perhaps the Almighty did mean us to suffer but not so that others could go through the potholes of Manila in gilded *Chedengs,* with a motorcycle escort to boot.

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Erratum: Re my column which came out Jan. 12 titled, "The one thing necessary."

1. "She was also the adviser for our high school graduation book and again served as its editor." Sorry, this was meant to read "She (Mother Rosario) was the editorial adviser for our high school graduation book."

2. Hilare Belloc is the author of "Tarantella," not Bellock as printed.

Angry voices

YOUNGBLOOD

Bung-ay

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I DON'T know exactly where to start. Should I start from the night when I woke up to the sound of voices raised in anger? Or should I start before that when everybody at the dinner table was chillingly quiet and eerie calm prevailed like that which precedes a violent storm? Maybe I should start with another night, another rude awakening, but there were so many of them that I don't know which to choose.

As far as I can remember, I have been hearing these angry voices and I have been rudely awakened by them so many times. I've listened to and watched my parents fight and make up so often that I have come to the realization that their marriage was beyond saving a long time ago.

This is not to say that their marriage has been all toil and tears. There were moments when they would sit together like old friends, but they just could put up a peaceful façade for long. There were many times I thought they could really work things out, only to be disappointed when they again turned our home into a war zone, and I and my siblings would be caught in the crossfire. I've long ago learned not to relax when silence descends upon our home. I know that it is only temporary and to put my trust in it will only disillusion me further.

Their fights respected no time, no occasion, no place. Be it midnight or two in the morning, be it a birthday or a graduation, be it at home or in the office, be it at breakfast, lunch or dinner, when they feel like fighting, they just fight. There were times when I was burning the midnight oil trying to study and their angry voices shattered my concentration. I would be tempted to say the hell with studying and just go to sleep, but I knew in my heart that I had to study hard. I had to focus. I had to see beyond my tears and read on.

And yes, there were times when I was tempted to go out, leave the house and find my peace elsewhere.

Throughout the years we, the children, tried everything to shut them up. We tried the diplomatic approach but it didn't work. We raised our own voices at them, and the more they wouldn't listen. My parents are burning the bridge that they're crossing and they still refuse to get off it. In the process, they are bringing us all down into their own private hell.

There comes a time when no matter how hard you try to fix them, things can never be fixed again. There is a time when wounds can never be healed, when two pieces that used to fit together perfectly can never be put together again without one or both being broken or destroyed. That is true with marriage.

I'm no expert on marriage, but I have been witnessing one that has been a crumbling for far too long. And I know for a fact that when there is nothing left to save in a marriage, the only thing left for a couple to do is to go their separate ways and live separate lives. There are times when it is best to heal wounds away from each other's presence, away from painful reminders of a bitter past.

It's no secret that I want my parents to separate. We know that we are most likely to get disapproving frowns and pitying stares from other people. But they have tried so hard to reconcile their differences and came up losing every time. And every time they reconciled we, their children went through some adjustment periods only to keep on adjusting when they fought again. We shouldn't be made to live in a stormy home just to keep up appearances. We know only too well the price of our peace and solitude as a family. If the cost is the separation of our parents, we are willing to pay it.

A separation will help. It can help preserve what's left of the family and it can also help save what little respect and affection my parents have for each other.

Sometimes people say that parents, no matter their differences, should always stay together for the sake of their children. The reverse is also true: Some parents should stay apart for the sake of the children because when they are forced to live together, they eventually ruin not only their own lives but also the lives of the people around them. I've heard it said many times that parents are better off happily separated rather than unhappily married. I won't really mind the disapproving stares that we might get from people, I only care about my peace of mind. If my parents' separation can give that to me and to the rest of my family, then I will accept it and be grateful.

It hurts me every time my parents hurl angry and hurting words at each other, but I stay. I stay and listen and endure. Why? I look at my brothers and sisters and I see the answer: I love them too much to leave. I care too much about them and sometimes I wish that I could just tell them that it's all a dream, that when they wake up, the nightmare will be forgotten.

I am all of 25 years now and the hurt that I felt as a child listening to my parents quarrel is still very much the same. Sometimes it's even worse, because I don't just hurt for myself, I also hurt for my younger brothers who I know are in their beds trying so hard to sleep, trying so hard to swallow tears of frustration and trying so hard to be strong.

Each and every rude awakening taught me that as far as the family is concerned, there are no hard and fast rules to follow. I've asked so many times why this is happening to my family, but to this day I am still looking for answers. The only thing I've learned for sure is that keeping a family shouldn't be a question of who is right and who is wrong. Compromises should be reached. Compromise is not an ugly word, it doesn't mean giving up one's soul, it means doing what's best for the family.

And pride? It shouldn't have a place in the family. For a family to be happy, each and every one of its members should live without it.

There were times when I prayed for a good night's sleep, for a comfortable meal eaten minus the tension. But my prayers have so many times gone unanswered. But still I prayed, for I knew that God was there, keeping me company, telling me to sleep, telling me that He would be right beside me always.

And yes, I cry. Oh, how I've cried! I cry for my parents who cannot live happily ever after. I cry for my brothers and sisters who are trying so hard to be brave. I cry for all children who continue to endure the torments of broken homes everywhere. And I cry for what could have been a peaceful night. And then, I cry myself to sleep.

It pains me so much to write about this particular aspect of my life. But I write for what solace it can give me and so that I would have one less night to cry myself to sleep. And I write for people to see and understand and not to condemn us for adding one more broken home to oh so many more out there, and so that they will value their own families and all the nights they can go to sleep without fear of being rudely awakened at some ungodly hour.

My faith in God overwhelms me sometimes, it helps me make sense of all my troubles. Somehow I know that all these things shall pass. Life is filled with beauty and it is too short for me to spend brooding all the time.

I pray each night. I pray that when I awake it will not be to the sound of angry voices, but to the beautiful sounds of a day that is about to begin—the crowing chickens, the sound of the shower running, the whistle of the boiling coffee pot—and the soft light of a promising day.

Bung-ay, 25, finished law at Saint Louis University in Baguio.

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Constructive criticism

THIS has reference to the INQUIRER news story on Jan. 10, where I was quoted extensively as regards my views on the quality of governance being demonstrated by our President, which unfortunately may appear to be unfair to her.

While my views were shared in the spirit of constructive criticism, it may have created misimpressions that I have taken an adversarial stance against our President. This is farthest from my intention since I have held her and will always hold her in high esteem. I have no doubt that she has only sincere concern for our country.

As a citizen, I have always been candid in sharing my thoughts on several issues of national importance. Thus when I shared my views on the manner in which our President has been managing the affairs of the country, it was simply to inform her of prevailing public perceptions regarding the quality of her governance as well as her political plans for 2004. I am concerned that if these perceptions are left uncorrected, it may further erode our peoples' trust and confidence in the capability of our President to govern. I do not want this to happen.

I want our President to succeed because as they say, "Where the President goes...there goes the country."

While certain quarters perceive the President's visit to the provinces as a preparation for 2004, many people are not aware that these are necessary trips intended to unite our people as well as to show her genuine concern over matters of local interest.

It is our duty and responsibility to remind our national leaders to be focused on their respective roles toward nation-building, but we must likewise realize that this task is not theirs alone but must be equally shared by everyone regardless of' beliefs and political persuasions.

It is therefore my fervent hope and prayer that instead of focusing on things that divide, we must focus on things that unite.—**M/GEN. FORTUNATO U. ABAT (ret.)**

Smoking inside jeepneys or buses

THANKS to the few men (and women) who throw away their cigarettes just before boarding jeepneys or who don't light up while on board, whether or not they are aware of the Clean Air Act. Woe to those who continue to be insensitive to their co-passengers, even if their seatmates already request them to put out their cigarettes.

It is indeed a challenge for the authorities, and maybe also for the general riding public, how to implement the Clean Air Act in jeepneys and other public vehicles, since there are drivers who smoke all day long. Perhaps one way would be to get cigarette vendors off the streets—although I believe there have been previous unsuccessful attempts to do this, too.

Another way would be to post inside the jeepney a poster on the Clean Air Act that will easily convey what it means not to smoke inside the jeepney and other places it covers. Non-smoking passengers can easily point to the poster when smokers light up inside the vehicle.

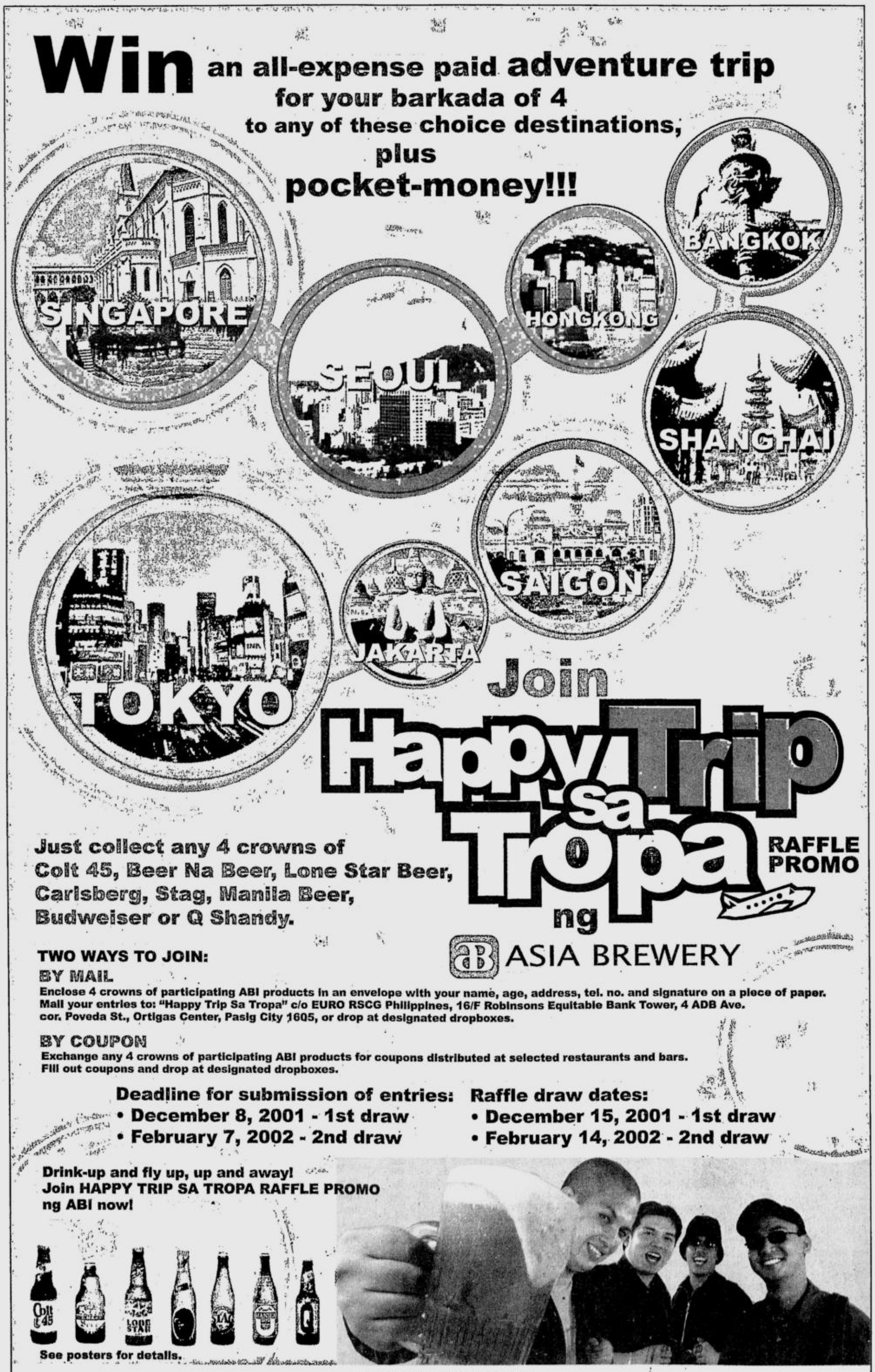
I suffer each time someone smokes inside a jeepney. I suffer even more when the smoker gives me dagger looks and then continues to smoke when I request him to stop. I am sure many others have had a similar experience.—**MCS ABIS, chromecat@hotmail.com**

A Magna Carta for the elderly

THE EXCELLENT column of Honesto C. General on Jan. 7 brought out the importance of the proposed legislation of Magna Carta for senior citizens. No doubt, kudos for Rep. Eduardo Zialcita are also warranted.

Several proposed Magna Cartas for the elderly have been filed (28 in the House and six in the Senate). All have their origins in the tireless devotion of former Rep. Edgardo Lara of Cagayan who invited (and fed) government, non-government and people's organizations to share insights for the construction of the original bill.

One significant provision contained in the "Lara bill" that isn't in the other proposals was the establishment of a "National Council of Older People" composed of many of those who helped craft the legislation. The bill was passed by the House during the 11th Congress. Through the sponsorship of Sen. Franklin Drilon, it might have made it through the Senate if not for the impeachment trial.—**EDWARD M. GERLOCK, Coalition of Services of the Elderly Inc., 14-D Manhattan St., Cubao, Quezon City**



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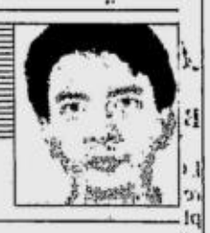


Michael L. Tan

The return of polio

I STILL remember a classmate in grade school who stopped coming to class. Teachers told us she was very sick and that we should pray for her. Eventually, we got to visit her, a tiny wisp of a girl encased in an iron lung, a cylindrical tank used to assist a polio patient's breathing. The iron lung kept her alive for only a few months.

Polio. It used to strike such fear in the hearts of parents. As recently as 1988, there were 350,000 cases reported worldwide, but a sustained program of vaccination helped to bring down the number. By the year 2000, there were only 3,500 reported cases throughout the world. In October 2000, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Western Pacific Region, to which the Philippines belongs, polio-free. Now, barely into the year 2002, our Department of Health has confirmed three new polio cases: a 3-year-old girl from Laguna, a 14-month-old boy in Cavite and an 8-year-old boy in Cagayan de Oro.

The disease's full name is poliomyelitis, a viral infection that is usually quite mild in young children, lasting one to three days without any serious effects. In older children and adults, however, the virus attacks parts of the brain and spinal cord, which then results in weakness or paralysis of certain muscles. If the chest muscles are affected, the patient cannot breath, which then requires the use of an iron lung.

We still see many fairly young Filipinos walking with a limp, one leg somewhat "dragging" as a result of polio. In some cases, complications from polio may occur 20 to 30 years after the attack, resulting in progressive muscle weakness. The degree of disability varies; many are able to move around quite well without problems. US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had polio and had to move around in a wheelchair, yet he led his country through the Depression and World War II.

When I mentioned my memories of the classmate with polio my mother immediately recalled: "Swimming. That's probably how she got it." The disease is highly contagious and people used to associate it with swimming pools. The poliovirus is spread through the feces of infected individuals so a swimming pool can be one route for infection as people accidentally swallow contaminated water. However, outbreaks can occur through other means as well, as long as there is contact with the infected feces.

The only way to prevent polio is through vaccination, and the three new cases in the Philippines should remind us of the need to be vigilant with our immunization campaigns. We often forget that a major accomplishment in the post-Marcos era were the childhood immunization campaigns of the Department of Health. These efforts were part of international campaigns supported by WHO and Unicef and private groups like Rotary International to mobilize people and communities for this life-saving activity.

The immunization campaign included the use of an oral polio vaccine, first developed in the 1950s in the United States. It could not have been more dramatic: a vaccine so easy to administer and yet preventing so much suffering. Even politicians latched on. In Indonesia, billboards were put up showing "Bapak Suharto" (Uncle Suharto) administering the drops to a child, with Ibu Tien (Mother Tien, Suharto's wife) beaming in the background.

The immunization campaigns of the 1990s showed what political will could do, with a rapid decline in the incidence of polio and other vaccine-preventable childhood diseases. The last year when new confirmed cases of polio were reported in the Philippines was 1996. All this, including the declaration that the Philippines is now "polio-free," may have lulled people into a false sense of security. We forget that polio outbreaks can still occur because of wild poliovirus strains lurking around. For full efficacy of immunization, there is something called herd immunity: 95 percent of a community's susceptible individuals should be vaccinated. That 95 percent coverage will protect even the remaining 5 percent who are not vaccinated.

Complacency isn't something specific to developing countries. Even in Britain today, the government has had to remind its citizens about child immunization, after it was noted that an alarming percentage of parents were not bringing their children in for their shots. Outbreaks can, and do occur for various childhood diseases because of this complacency, or, in some instances, resistance from parents who have unfounded fears about vaccinations.

In other cases, people just don't appreciate how important vaccines are. Just last week I was interviewing an urban-poor family in Quezon City and casually asked the 18-year-old mother about her baby's immunization. The child was 11 months old and should have had a complete round of an infant's shots. It took her some time to remember what vaccines the baby had received. She could not recall the polio shots, and she was sure the child hadn't been given the measles vaccine. I told her it was important to get the shots and the stepfather of the child, all of 19 years old, agreed; he'd heard of children dying from measles.

"*Mahal kasi*," he explained. Apparently they'd been going to a private pediatrician and paying through their nose for the shots. The couple shook their heads, fidgeting on their cell phones, when I asked them if they knew where the closest government health centers were. I'm afraid it will be some time before we can say the country is truly polio-free.

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Airports on the lookout for terrorist in transit

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

LOCAL immigration authorities have received information about another plan to terrorize the affluent city-state of Singapore—this time a plot to bomb its Changi International Airport, one of the most modern and busiest airports in Southeast Asia.

Intelligence officer Rudy David told the INQUIRER that the Bureau of Immigration received information about a Singaporean national, who reportedly has links with the al-Qaida terrorist network, and three to four companions would try to bomb Singapore's airport.

The intelligence report and advisory of the "possible Southeast Asian terrorist threat" came from the Interpol itself.

David said the suspect-identified as Mas Selamat Kasteri, 37, of Teckwhye Lane in Singapore-might use any of the country's international airports as a jump off point to Singapore.

He is expected to come from Indonesia, Malaysia or Thailand.

"His place of birth in his passport is Singapore but he looks too much like an Arab. Singaporeans usually have Chinese features. Kasteri has Middle Eastern looks," David told the INQUIRER.

"He could have just taken on the Singaporean identity and it's possible he is not really a Singaporean," he added.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo over the weekend alerted the immigration offices and counters around the country about Kasteri's anticipated transit through the Philippines. Warning posters, bearing Kasteri's picture, have already been disseminated and posted.

The advisory has been posted in all terminals of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the other international airports in Mactan, Pampanga, Laoag, Subic and Davao City.

"This information have already been disseminated to all the international airports around the country. We would be ready for him and his cohorts if and when they show up," said the intelligence officer.

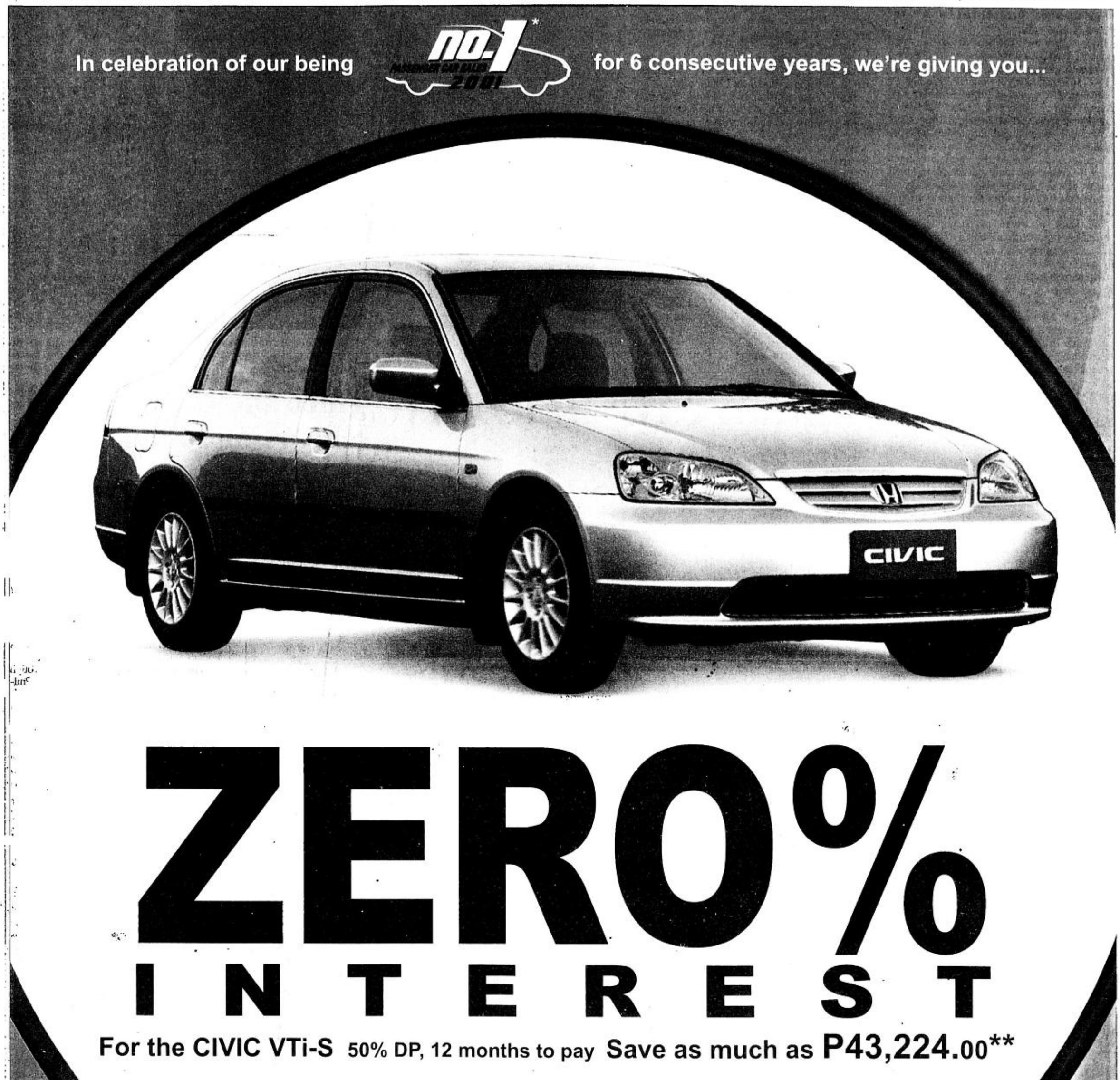
The intelligence information, passed on to the Bureau of Immigration by the Interpol, showed that Kasteri has been issued a Singaporean passport and his address has been declared as Block 106, Teckwhye Lane, Apartment No. 02502, Singapore.

He was supposed to have been born on Jan. 23, 1961 in Singapore.

The suspect has black shoulder-length hair, black beard and moustache, stands five feet six inches and weighs 143 lbs. He is reported to have tan brown skin.

Thirteen suspected terrorists, belonging to an extremist group Jemaah Islamiah, have already been nabbed in Singapore this month. They reportedly planned to bomb a bus carrying US military personnel from a naval base to a train station.

The plot's details were reported to have been contained in a videotape recovered in the al-Qaida network's former strongholds in Afghanistan.



The WORLD
LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

India, Pakistan to ease tension

NEW DELHI—Nuclear armed rivals India and Pakistan have agreed in telephone calls with US President George W. Bush to reduce building tensions that have seen troops mass on their shared border, the White House said.

Bush telephoned the leaders of the rival neighbors Sunday after Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's pledge to crack down on extremists—a move cautiously welcomed by India.

Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee "agreed to reduce tensions," White House spokesperson Sean McCormack told reporters in Washington, adding he was unaware whether specific steps to do so were discussed.

Musharraf announced the crackdown in a widely welcomed and keenly anticipated address Saturday in which he banned five militant groups, including two organizations that New Delhi has blamed for the Dec. 13 attack on its parliament.

The attack, in which 14 people including five attackers were killed, escalated the tensions between the countries, already feuding over the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

The neighbors have amassed an estimated 800,000 troops on their shared border and exchanged tit-for-tat sanctions since the attack.

India had threatened to respond to the attack with the same force the United States used against the Taliban and Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.

Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh cautiously welcomed Musharraf's announcement, but said New Delhi would judge Musharraf's commitment by "concrete action taken" against "cross-border terrorism."

"The lessening of tension on the border is entirely dependent on the steps taken by Pakistan on operationalizing Musharraf's measures announced in his speech," Singh said.

He added though that India "cannot expect immediate action" and was willing to play its part in defusing a month-long standoff.

Hours after Musharraf's address, Pakistan police began sealing offices of the banned religious extremist and militant groups and arresting their members.

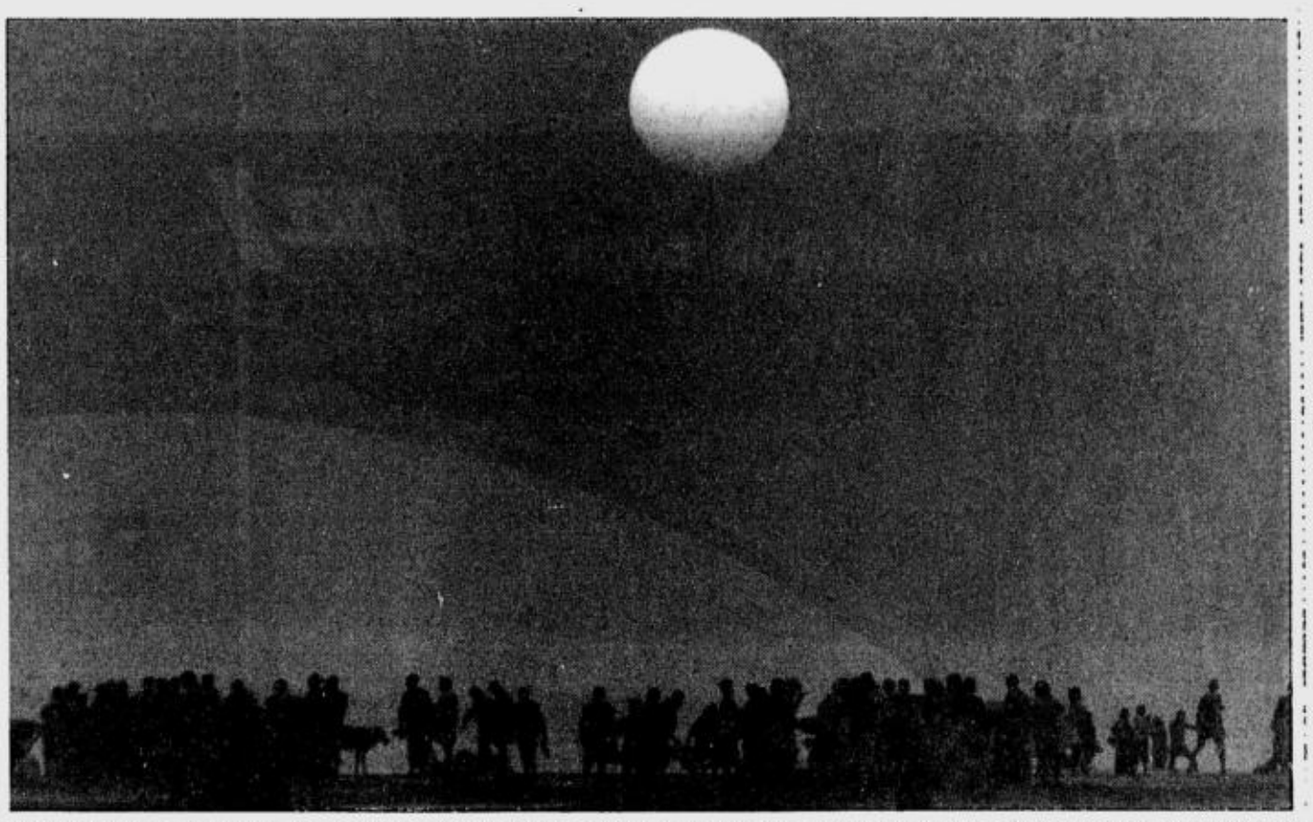
By Sunday, almost 900 alleged Islamic extremists had been arrested around the country, police in Pakistan said.

But Musharraf Saturday refused to hand over any Pakistanis included in a list drawn up by New Delhi of 20 alleged terrorists and vowed that Pakistan would never drop its moral and diplomatic support for the separatist cause in India's sole Muslim-majority state, Kashmir.

Pakistan and India have fought three wars since their independence in 1947, two of them over Kashmir.

"Kashmir runs in our blood," Musharraf said. "We will never budge an inch from our principled stand on Kashmir."

Musharraf also warned India that any attempt to cross the border would be met with "full force." *AFP*



HINDU pilgrims walk on the beach at sunset at Sagar island, 150 km south of the eastern Indian city of Calcutta on Jan. 13. Monks and pilgrims came to Sagar Island for a holy dip at the confluence of the river Ganges and the Bay of Bengal for the "Makar Sankranti," a festival marking an auspicious day in the Hindu calendar. REUTERS

US bombs Afghan cave hideouts

KABUL/WASHINGTON—US warplanes pounded cave complexes in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday as 30 more al-Qaida and Taliban captives began the long journey to their new prison at a US naval base in Cuba.

In Afghanistan's second city of Kandahar, until recently the bastion of the Taliban regime, Afghan security forces set a deadline for the handover of thousands of illegal weapons.

With the government in Kabul pleading for $45 billion to resurrect its devastated land, a senior Afghan defense ministry official said the government would keep about 1,500 troops in the capital after it had cleared the city of thousands of armed men in agreement with international peacekeepers.

The US military said a second batch of 30 Taliban and al-Qaida detainees left Afghanistan late on Sunday under heavy US military guard bound for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which will bring to 50 the number held there.

Two US military personnel traveled with each of the detainees, who were shackled, as were the 20 on the first planeload that arrived at the US naval base on Friday.

The first 20 captives shipped out of the war settled into a routine, sleeping and praying in their outdoor, cage-like cells at Guantanamo as they waited for interrogation and possible trial. The British government said one of the 20 was a British citizen, and a report in The Times of London said six more British Muslims were among those still held in Afghanistan.

In Kandahar, Inspector General Jamal Akram, responsible for law and order throughout three southwest provinces, said he had set a deadline of midnight Thursday for the handover of illegal weapons.

"Our small intelligence network has been working hard to pinpoint stockpiles of illegal arms," Akram said.

He said his 1,700-strong force would raid any remaining hideouts and arrest any culprits. They faced a year in prison.

In contrast to the interim Kabul government's estimate of $45 billion, US Sen. Joseph Biden said on Sunday Afghanistan will need between $10 billion and $15 billion in international aid over the next five to 10 years.

But he added that the war-torn country needed a quick injection of $30 million to $40 million this year to set up the government with such basic items as desks and telephones and to pay its workers.

"Can you imagine any functioning government anywhere in the world where they are unable to pay any salaries to any employees?" he said.

Biden, who is on a fact-finding mission in Kabul, where he met with Afghanistan's interim leader, Hamid Karzai, spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press."

As the US military hunted Osama bin Laden, wanted for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States that killed more than 3,000 people, and ousted Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, US warplanes on Sunday bombed cave complexes in the Zhawar area, 30 km southwest of Khost, the private Afghan Islamic Press said. *Reuters*

Video shows al-Qaida rehearsing assassinations

SYDNEY—The Australian Broadcasting Corp. has obtained a video it said showed al-Qaida militants rehearsing an attack on world leaders at a golf tournament and on a motorcade in what appears to be Washington.

The ABC broadcast extracts from the video late on Sunday night and said the tape would be sent to the United States for detailed analysis by US military intelligence.

The grainy video, in which ABC said Arab, Pakistani and African fighters spoke in English, was discovered by the Northern Alliance in an abandoned school turned training camp near Kabul shortly after the hardline Taliban fled the Afghan capital.

The United States is still hunting Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader Washington has accused of masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Since the rout of the Taliban last month, various news media organizations have stumbled on bomb-making pamphlets, training manuals and other documents in abandoned camps believed to have been run by Bin Laden's organization.

The ABC said the amateur video film in its possession was handed to its reporters by Northern Alliance officials.

Running for more than six hours, it shows al-Qaida members rehearsing hostage-taking scenarios and assassinations, according to the extracts. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention:

To the Taxpaying Public, Real Estate Appraisers, Brokers, Developers and Real Property Owners

With the end view of steamlining government operations and improvement in systems, we have drafted procedures for the improvement, simplification, and the speedy resolution of Real Property transactions.

In this regard, we hereby invite you to participate in discussions, on dates mentioned herein, on the revisions in the establishment and updating of ***Zonal Value of Real Property*** and the proposed procedures for the improvement, simplification and speedy resolution in the disposition of **CLEARANCES** in relation to real property transactions.

Dates:

January 22, 2002 (8:30 AM)	Real Estate Appraisers
January 23, 2002 (8:30 AM)	Real Estate Brokers
January 24, 2002 (8:30 AM)	Real Property Owners and Other Interested Parties

Venue:
National Training Center
Bureau of Internal Revenue
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

For more information please contact:

Director Danilo A. Duncano
BIR Region 7, Quezon Ave., Q.C.
Tel. No. 373-37-70/373-37-58

Atty. Esperanza B. Tee
Chief, Asset Valuation Division
Tel. No. 926-57-04/981-72-72

Inquirer-Jan. 15, 2002

REUTERS

TOURISTS take pictures of a giant ice sculpture named "The frightened Statue of Liberty" at the 18th China Harbin International Snow and Ice Festival in Harbin, capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang province, Jan. 13. The sculpture depicts the horror of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York.

Former Taliban commander more powerful than ever

CHAHAR BULAQ, Afghanistan—Not so long ago, Wali Mohammad Ibrahimkhiel was a powerful Taliban commander with hundreds of soldiers prepared to die at his command.

But when anti-Taliban troops began their rapid march through northern Afghanistan, Ibrahimkhiel sensed the end of Taliban militias were near. So he made a simple and pragmatic decision.

He switched sides.

Now he is an even more powerful commander under Afghanistan's new leadership, with thousands of soldiers at his command.

In other parts of the world, Ibrahimkhiel's choice might be called betrayal or treason, but in the world of Afghan warfare it is just strategy.

"This is a normal thing in Afghanistan, because everyone loves their lives and wants to stay alive. We switch sides all the time," Ibrahimkhiel said.

Many of Ibrahimkhiel's fellow commanders made the same choice, bringing with them the soldiers at their command. The defections of these less committed Taliban commanders was partly responsible for the rapid defeat of the hardline regime.

As Ibrahimkhiel reclines on a cushion surrounded by his advisers in a warm room in Chahar Bulaq, the town he commands 40 km west of Mazar-e-Sharif, thousands of Taliban prisoners, who either refused to switch sides or did not do it in time, sit in the filthy, cold prison in Shibergan, 90 km away.

On the floor behind Ibrahimkhiel rests a framed picture of Gen. Rashid Dostum, a northern Afghan warlord who is his new patron.

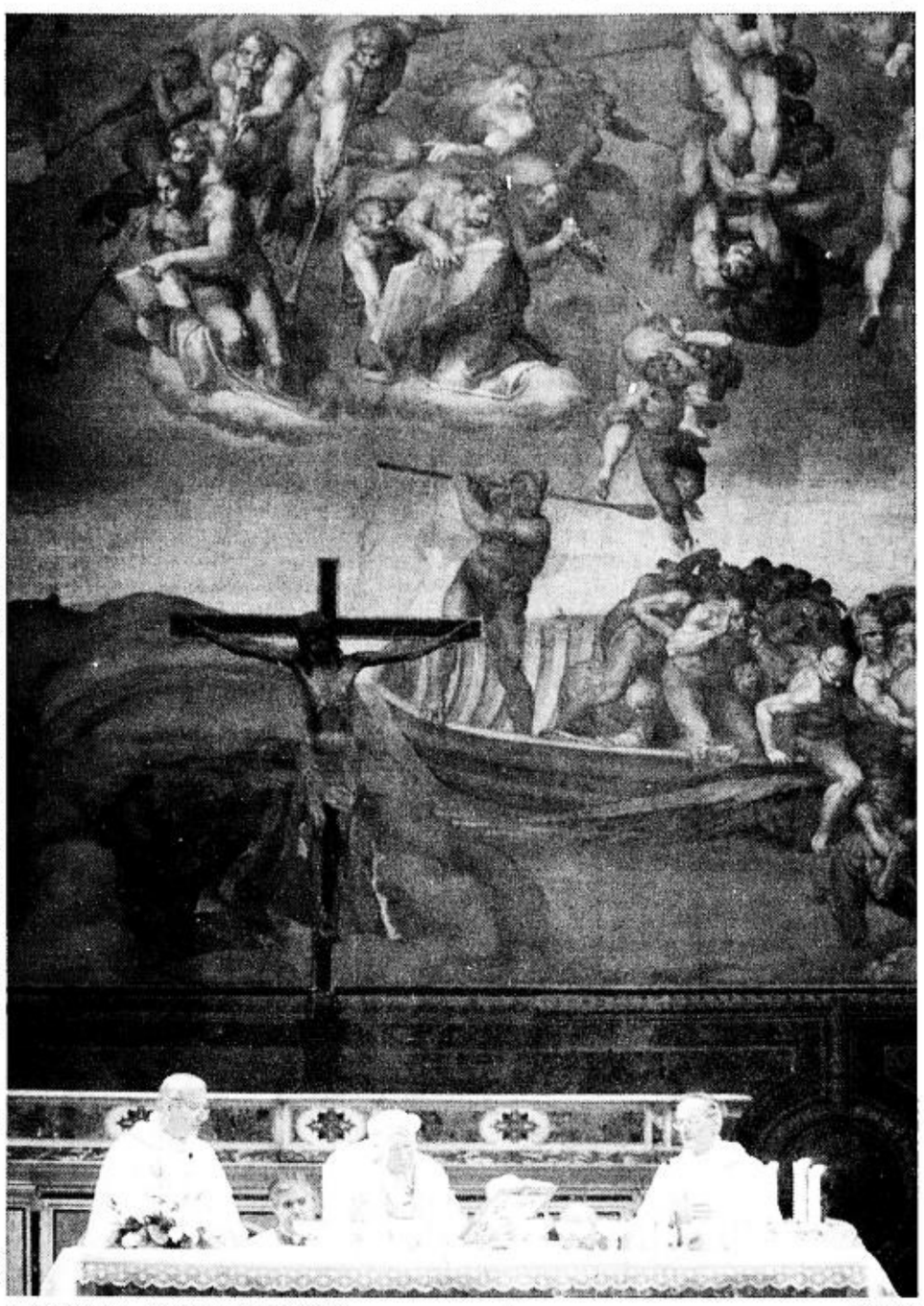
Under the Taliban, Ibrahimkhiel commanded 800 troops. Now he is commander of the 70th Division and leader of 3,500 men.

"There is no bigger commander in this area than me," he said, a lit cigarette dangling from his right hand. "Gen. Dostum has made me very powerful."

Ibrahimkhiel, 25, first picked up a gun seven years ago because as the son of a local commander and highway bandit, he was expected to. He joined a local militia run by commanders from his Pashtun ethnic group.

When the Taliban, who were also led by Pashtuns, began capturing parts of northern Afghanistan in 1997, he gladly switched sides.

"We welcomed them," he said. "The Taliban brought peace here and everyone was safe." *AP*



BAPTISM AT THE SISTINE REUTERS

Pope John Paul II blesses the bread during a special baptism ceremony in the Sistine Chapel Jan. 13. Behind the Pope is Michelangelo's depiction of the "Last Judgment."

Officials did not alert Bush on Enron's trouble

WASHINGTON—Top US administration officials said on Sunday they felt they were not obligated to inform President George W. Bush or Enron employees and shareholders of the energy firm's requests for help because the information discussed was already known to the public.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said while he was contacted both at home and in the office by Enron Corp. Chair Kenneth Lay, the conversations revealed nothing unusual or new and he felt there was no reason to alert President George W. Bush.

"I didn't think this was worthy of me running across the street and telling the president," O'Neill said on the "Fox News Sunday" program. ". . . I frankly think that what Ken told me over the phone was not new news. You all had been reporting for weeks that Enron had problems, that they were in trouble."

O'Neill said he had read reports that Enron President Lawrence Whalley had asked for help from Treasury's undersecretary, Peter Fisher, but told ABC's "This Week" program "nothing was done."

Thousands of employees lost their pensions and life savings in the former Wall Street darling's downfall, which began last autumn when the company acknowledged several hundred million dollars of previously undisclosed liabilities.

Five congressional committees, the justice department and the Securities and Exchange Commission are investigating Enron's demise, including the company's bankruptcy filing on Dec. 2, the largest in US history.

O'Neill said on Sunday as a result of those investigations he was not discussing the Enron case with his deputies "to make sure we do this correctly."

Commerce Secretary Donald Evans told NBC's "Meet the Press" that Lay's Oct. 29 call to him was about reviews of Enron's business by credit agencies.

"When I was talking to Ken I wasn't thinking about bankruptcy," Evans said. "I was thinking maybe their credit rating would be dropped some."

The information discussed was publicly known, he added, and "at that point in time, tens of thousands of employees had already lost their life savings because the stock value had already collapsed."

Evans said he later informed White House chief of staff Andrew Card about the call but Card did not tell Bush.

Evans, who served as Bush's presidential campaign manager, said he had several discussions with the president about the impact of Enron's downfall but never mentioned Lay's calls.

Meanwhile, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham called Lay on Nov. 2 to inquire about the company, energy department spokesperson Jeanne Lopatto said on Sunday.

Lay did not ask for Abraham's help, nor did Abraham offer any assistance, to try to solve Enron's problems, said Lopatto. *Reuters*

Bush faints while watching TV

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush briefly fainted late Sunday after choking on a pretzel while watching a football game on television but quickly recovered and is doing well, a White House spokesperson said.

The incident occurred at 5:35 p.m. (6:35 a.m. Monday in Manila) when Bush was sitting on a couch alone in a room in the White House residence watching a National Football League playoff game between the Baltimore Ravens and the Miami Dolphins.

"He had taken a bite from the pretzel and choked on it," White House spokesperson Ken Lisaius told reporters during a conference call.

"He was unconscious just for a few seconds, after which he got up and called his wife and the White House nurse," the spokesperson added.

First Lady Laura Bush was talking on the phone in the next room during the fainting episode.

An abrasion the size of a half-dollar were discovered of the president's left cheek after the incident, due apparently to his fall from the couch onto the carpeted floor, according to Lisaius.

Bush also had a bruise on his lower lip.

Nurse Cindy Wright examined the president and called White House physician Richard Tubb, who performed a series of cardio-pulmonary, neurological and laboratory tests on Bush, the spokesperson said.

The 55-year-old president was able to walk himself to the elevator and take a ride from the second floor to the first floor of the White House where the physician's office is located.

"The tests have all come back normal," Lisaius pointed out. "Dr. Tubbs believes the president had neurally-mediated vasovagal syncope."

The condition, commonly known as a fainting spell, may have been caused by the improper swallowing of the pretzel, which, in turn, led to a slower heartbeat, according to White House officials *AFP*

Israeli Army assailed for razing Gaza homes

JERUSALEM—The Israeli Army was under heavy fire from critics at home and abroad Sunday for razing Palestinian houses and leaving 600 homeless, as US remarks that Israel's military latest operations were "defensive" sparked an angry response in the Arab world.

However, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon defended the destruction of some 50 Palestinian houses in the Gaza town of Rafah on Thursday, which left up to 600 people homeless, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

"In Rafah there is a system to smuggle through tunnels, and these tunnels are deep now, between 12 and 17 meters, and we had to take all the necessary steps, and Israel will take all the necessary steps to stop the smuggling of weapons," Sharon told reporters in Jerusalem.

The Army also ripped up the runway at nearby Gaza international airport and shelled Gaza harbor Saturday, setting boats ablaze and destroying a fuel dump, leaving the Palestinian Navy unable to go to sea, Palestinian officials said.

The attacks came a week after Israel seized a ship carrying 50 tons of weapons it said were destined for the Palestinian Authority.

They also followed a Palestinian raid into southern Israel from Gaza which killed four Israeli soldiers as well as two attackers from the militant Islamic group Hamas, which had said last month it would heed Yasser Arafat's call for a truce.

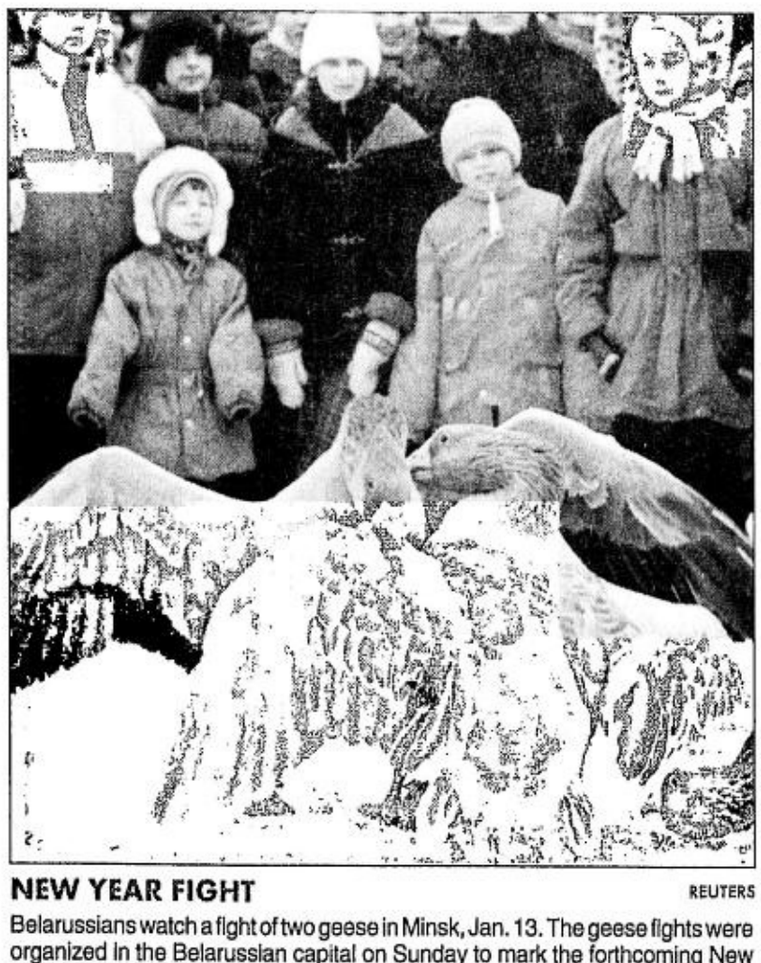
One of the attackers was said to be a member of the naval police.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said the Israeli operations were "defensive" and in response to arms smuggling which Israel said was linked to its arch-enemy, Iran.

However, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said there was "no basis" for allegations Iran was involved in the massive cargo of weapons which Israeli marine commandos seized aboard the Karine A freighter in the Red Sea on Jan. 3. Tehran has also denied it was any military cooperation with the Palestinians.

Arafat also claimed the Palestinians could buy the weapons illegally from Israelis during an interview with the Qatar-based al-Jazeera satellite television channel.

"I want to tell you something: the Israelis will sell you anything. If the Palestinians want to buy arms, they will buy them from Israel. Believe me, the Israelis sell everything," said Arafat, who has been under virtual house arrest in the West Bank city of Ramallah for more than a month. *AFP*



NEW YEAR FIGHT REUTERS

Belarussians watch a fight of two geese in Minsk, Jan. 13. The geese fights were organized in the Belarussian capital on Sunday to mark the forthcoming New Year according to the Julian Calendar, some 13 days after the official date, but still observed by Orthodox believers.

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Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

MILF warns rebels on kidnapping

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday vowed to impose "harsh sanctions" against its members who are involved in kidnapping.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, issued the stern warning following persistent police and military reports about the alleged links of some MILF rebels to kidnapping groups in Mindanao.

"The MILF Central Committee has warned its members not to get involved in kidnapping or else they may face harsh sanctions from the organization," Jaafar said.

The warning came in the wake of a threat from Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte that he would lead an attack against MILF camps that were being used as sanctuaries of kidnapping groups.

The tough-talking mayor said he had enough of the wrongdoings that "these people" have committed.

"These people are full of sh_t. They do not deserve to live," Duterte blurted during his weekly radio and television program over ABS-CBN in Davao City.

"And since I said this, I will really do it, mind you. Just wait for me," he said.

Duterte also identified several areas in Southern Mindanao as hideaways of the Pentagon Group, which, he said, has links to some MILF leaders.

Earlier, Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol also denounced the involvement of some MILF guerrillas and called on rebel leaders to do something to stop the guerrillas' involvement in criminal activities.

Piñol, irked by nearly a dozen kidnappings that took place in his province, declared an "all-out war against kidnappers."

He challenged Malacañang to convince the MILF, which is negotiating peace with the government, to help stop the kidnappings.

Jaafar told the Radio Mindanao Network here that the Bangsamoro Armed Forces would run after members "who will violate the order."

"The MILF, through its military arm, will not hesitate to launch military actions against these kidnappers," he said.

Jaafar vowed that the MILF would see to it that none of their camps would be used as hiding places of kidnap groups.

"No MILF camp would allow (the) entry of kidnappers and their victims," he said.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, clarified that Jaafar's warning did not mean that the rebel group admitted the involvement of some of its leaders in kidnapping.

He challenged Duterte and other officials who have linked MILF leaders to kidnappings to formalize their charges.

"The mayor's accusation is very general. If there are problems, why not make it (accusation) official," Kabalu said.

He defended an MILF commander who had earlier been reported to be one of the protectors of the Pentagon.

"Commander Boy Hashim has not been involved in any nefarious activity," he said.

The INQUIRER learned that Boy Hashim, who is based in Cotabato, is the younger brother of MILF chair Salamat Hashim. ***Charlie S. Señase and Anthony S. Allada, with a report from Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'PEOPLE POWER'

Cordillera DOTC men install chosen chief

BAGUIO CITY—Employees of the regional Department of Transportation and Communications installed their own director here on Monday and ousted the incumbent official who has political ties to ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The new director then blamed Pantaleon Alvarez for the "people power" act, claiming that the transport secretary sat on the issue for a month.

Alvarez allegedly refused to settle the impasse between DOTC Cordillera Director Socrates Suayan, and his replacement, lawyer Alfredo Mondiguing.

Mondiguing claimed he was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Nov. 27.

The INQUIRER called up Alvarez for a reaction on Monday, but the secretary was in a meeting and could not offer any comment.

DOTC sources, however, said Alvarez instructed Suayan to examine how Mondiguing's "takeover" bid had affected the department's public image here.

Mondiguing, the former DOTC regional assistant director for com-

ALVAREZ

munications, is one of five applicants for the post who were considered last year by the Presidential Management Staff.

"Alvarez told me in a meeting (in December) that he wanted to maintain a status quo first. I don't understand this because my appointment papers were signed by his superior—the President. What possible reason can they have to block my assumption as regional director? I was later told that Alvarez was avoiding another potential controversy now that his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments is very tenuous," he said.

"I gave (Alvarez) a month to back up my appointment with a simple order to assume as regional director, because technically, I should have assumed office on Dec. 14. He never did. I could not wait any longer that is why I took over today (Monday), which is exactly one month after my presumed assumption into office," Mondiguing told the INQUIRER.

In front of employees, minutes after their flag-raising ceremony at the DOTC Cordillera office, a leader of the DOTC-CAR Employees Organization read out a "Certificate of Assumption of Duty" that "certifies that (Mondiguing) assumed his duties and responsibilities as regional director . . . effective Jan. 11, 2001."

The certificate was signed by 38 organization members, in lieu of Alvarez's signature, and was sent last week to the secretary "as a formality."

Juan Nazarro, DOTC legal officer, chastised the employees, saying "no law allows employees to install their own superior."

Another petition, signed by 32 employees, asked for Suayan's retention. The document was also sent to Alvarez on Friday.

The signatures backing both directors represent only a fraction of the 239 DOTC employees in the region.

Suayan protested the "takeover" and appealed to the employees to await Alvarez's official pronouncements regarding the impasse.

Suayan said his ouster might have been fueled by his being a lead convenor of Estrada's Jeep ni Erap in Baguio.

"I was expecting moves to replace me, although technically the applications for my post were made while I still held it. When I was appointed by (Estrada) in 1998, there was a vacuum I had to fill. I am not contesting (Mondiguing's) appointment. I merely want the transition done properly," the-34 year-old Suayan said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

BENGUET RAID

Members of a special task force formed to combat the country's growing drug trade uproot fully grown marijuana plants in a plantation in Benguet during a recent raid. TOOTS SOBERANO

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Notice is hereby given to the public that on December 24, 2001, **AMA Computer Learning Center, Inc.** has terminated its Memorandum of Agreement with Powerhomes Unlimited Corp. effective immediately on account of the serious misrepresentations and contract violations committed by Powerhomes Unlimited Corp. and its officers and directors relative to the agreement. Notice is hereby further served that Powerhomes Unlimited Corp. has no transaction much less relation whatsoever with any of the companies under the **AMA Education System** and that Powerhomes Unlimited Corp. has been directed to cease and desist from further using the name of the company and any of the companies under the **AMA Education System** for whatever purpose and for whatever reason.

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We have been directed, to institute the appropriate legal actions against Powerhomes Unlimited Corp. and its officers and directors to protect the interest of our client.

ALMAZAN VELOSO NUEVA TEZON PLACIDES & PARTNERS
Counsel for AMA Education System
No. 59 AMA Building II,
Panay Avenue Quezon City

DPWH heeds clamor for new channel design

MINALIN, Pampanga—Heeding the clamor of some 1,000 families facing displacement, the Department of Public Works and Highways in Central Luzon redesigned the Minalin segment of a Japanese-funded artificial floodwater channel formerly called the "Erap River."

Engineer Amando Ramirez, chief of the DPWH Mount Pinatubo Emergency Project Management Office, announced the adjustment in a dialogue with local officials on Wednesday.

The dialogue was called by Pampanga Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc, the proponent of what is now called the province's "Third River."

The artificial channel will be formed from the alignment of 12 tributaries in the City of San Fernando and the towns of Mexico, Sto. Tomas, Bacolor, Minalin and Macabebe.

It ends at the Pasac River at the mouth of the Pampanga Bay, the province's main drainer of floodwater toward Manila Bay.

The P900.2-million project is so far the biggest funded flood mitigation effort in the government's P3.5-billion loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

The concurrence of the JBIC, which was reportedly wary of community displacements in projects that it helps finance, is still being awaited.

From the JBIC's concurrence, the DPWH would issue a "notice to proceed" to the winning contractor, China International Water and Electric Corp.

The revision entailed scrapping the original plan to use portions of the villages along the San Francisco River as "spoil sites."

The alignment was also modified, with the MPE-PMO agreeing to confine the widening only at the river's western bank, which has idle and uninhabited land.

Government engineers clarified that the adjustment was only possible in Minalin because minimal widening was required there. The width of the river conforms with the desired span.

Ramirez clarified that the rest of the alignment of the 37-kilometer "Third River" will have to be retained because its design intends to achieve "maximum draining capacity. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Sanctions vs firm sought for defying Bt-corn ban

ILAGAN, Isabela—Groups opposing the field trial of the *Bacillus thuringiensis*-injected corn (Bt-corn) have challenged local officials to show "political will" after an agricultural firm defied a moratorium imposed by the town council on Bt-corn tests.

The Anti-GMO Alliance of Isabela (Agmais) has urged local leaders to order the uprooting of Bt-corn plants that were planted in Barangay Alinguigan II on Dec. 28.

Officials of the agricultural firm Monsanto Philippines, however, clarified that they proceeded with the dry-season field trial because the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines had given them a permit. The NCBP is the highest national regulatory body on biotechnology.

"All possible legal sanctions for such a defiance (of the moratorium) should be enforced," Fr. Gregorio Uanan, Agmais spokesperson and the Diocese of Ilagan chancellor, said.

"We denounce most vehemently Monsanto's contemptuousness toward valid and legal procedures."

With a unanimous vote, the 10-member Ilagan council rejected the dry-season field trial of the Bt-corn here last month.

The council also upheld its resolution approved on Oct. 22 last year that imposed a moratorium on field trials in the town.

Dr. Victor Alpuerto, Monsanto Philippines product development executive, said the firm would not allow anybody to uproot the Bt-corn plants at the trial site "because we are not violating any law."

On the possible filing of charges against the firm, Alpuerto said: "It is their (opposition) problem, not ours. They have to file the charges against the NCBP, the highest national regulatory body, about the (field) trial."

Noel Borlongan, government and public affairs team leader of Monsanto, said the Alinguigan II village council, through a resolution, endorsed the dry-season field trial.

Borlongan said the trial was "very much needed" for the firm to compare yield recorded during the wet-season field trial last year.

Vice Mayor Samuel Maddara, the municipal council's presiding chair, asked Chief Insp. Alexander Santos, Ilagan police chief, to inspect the field trial site following a complaint from Uanan.

Uanan said Monsanto's action "was done in total defiance and total disregard of the council resolution."

"As they (councilors) have shown their political will by thwarting Monsanto's deceitful designs recently, they must show it once more by asserting their powers and duties amid such a mockery," Uanan said.

Councilor Perlita Gaoiran, chair of the council's committee on agriculture, said they were standing by their decision and would continue to enforce the moratorium on the Bt-corn field test in the town. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

C. de Oro Bayan Muna leader released

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Police released a leader of a leftist group, who was arrested last week for obstruction of justice, after the detainee posted bail.

Nero Vallar, regional coordinator of Bayan Muna, walked out of the police precinct on Friday afternoon.

He was arrested on Wednesday, along with six other persons, for trying to prevent the demolition of more than 100 houses on a disputed land in Barangay Sta. Cruz.

The occupants and Evelyn Lugod-Raqises are contesting the land.

Vallar's companions were earlier freed "after they sought forgiveness," according to the police.

However, police said they held Vallar because he was the one who organized the crowd that blocked the demolition team and urged the people to gang up on the authorities.

Nathanael Santiago, Bayan Muna secretary general, told the INQUIRER that Vallar was illegally detained.

"We strongly condemn the repression of the freedom of expression done to the victims. (They were not allowed to argue) after they demanded (a) warrant of arrest from the police," Santiago said.

Lawyer Beverly Musni of the human rights group Karapatan said the demolition was itself illegal because proper procedures were ignored.

Under the Housing Act of 1992, Musni said, a demolition team should include representatives from the city or municipal engineer or building official, medical or health officer, the dismantling crew or relocation officer, social worker, barangay chair and a nongovernment representative.

"It was clear the city government was not informed and the teams that should have helped in the monitoring were absent," Musni said.

Mayor Vicente Emano confirmed that he did not receive word on any planned demolition last week before police started to tear down shanties in Sta. Cruz.

Lawyer Alexander Jose Pallugna, who represented Raqises, said there was no need to inform the city government because it was already the fifth demolition mounted against "the squatters."

"It was a continuation of the demolition and . . . informing the city government was immaterial," Pallugna told a local radio station. ***Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Internet becomes anti-port forum

ILOILO CITY—E-mail messages flew from various alumni chapters of the Silliman University to environment officials in Manila and Cebu opposing the proposed reclamation of a portion of the sea in front of the university and a scenic boulevard of Dumaguete City.

Silliman alumni from the Philippines, Canada, Thailand and Australia created a network of electronic protesters, who are demanding that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources deny a request of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) for an environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

The certificate contains a set of conditions for the repair of any damage made by the project to the environment. Its issuance would be a green light for the PPA to start the project which Silliman folk and other sectors are opposing for its possible damage to the environment.

The letters of alumni and updates of the project are posted at the Silliman's website www.su.edu.com.ph and www.savedumaguete.kom.ph.

PPA officials plan to reclaim 1.3 hectares of the sea for a fast ferry terminal. The P130-million structure would provide a 120-meter docking space to accommodate three fastcraft and a 5,500-sq. m. terminal building.

The proposed reclamation site is along Rizal Boulevard in front of Katada Street and Silliman Avenue. The proposed terminal would block the view of the sea from the university's Guy Hall, the administration building and Silliman Hall, which is probably the oldest American colonial educational institute in the country.

A group of architects, engineers and marine scientists assembled by Silliman president Agustin Pulido said the PPA did not have to reclaim the area because it can build a cheaper fast ferry terminal using existing port facilities like the old city engineer's compound, which occupies reclaimed land, or by using a floating terminal.

Bishop Erme Camba, head of the Citizens Alliance for Responsible Development, an umbrella of business, students, academe and civic groups in the city, has also offered a plan for a fast ferry terminal without the need for reclamation.

Stakeholders opposed to the project were not given a chance to present alternatives and were not given importance during meetings and consultations organized by the PPA, said Camba.

"There are alternatives but (the) PPA is not very fortright about it. The PPA stuck to its original plan despite the appeals of groups and the university to consider other plans," Pulido said.

Teodulo Paderes, the local port manager, said slow-growth areas, like Dumaguete, needed fast ferry facilities to spur growth. "I am being cast as a villain here by some radicals. I am bothered but I believe I am only doing my job," he said.

As the PPA is bent on pushing through with the project, students, community groups, marine experts and officials of the Silliman and other schools are just as determined to block the plan.

What ensued was a war of words and leaflets between the opposing groups.

The Silliman's board of trustees, through its chair Leonor Briones, declared its opposition to the project in December. Participants of a recent meeting of the Philippine Association of Marine Science, a group of marine scientists, and the National Economics Educators, also issued statements opposing it.

In its flyers, the PPA rejected the alternative plans, saying the terminal would be built on an "antiquated and obsolete port facility."

Paderes said the project would not cause flooding and destroy marine life because the site had "long ceased to be the habitat of marine plants and animals" because of sewage pollution.

Former environment secretary Angel Alcala, who heads the Silliman's research management and development center, said the PPA officials' statements "reveal their cavalier attitude and lack of understanding of natural processes."

Alcala said the effects of erosion and scouring are not immediately seen.

He said studies made by the university showed that marine species, although now fewer, had survived despite the discharge of sewage.

"Assuming that the area is indeed polluted, this is a ludicrous justification for the PPA to further kill the remaining wildlife by reclamation," said Alcala.

At least 40 alumni wrote the DENR criticizing the PPA for "arrogant disdain" when PPA officials described Dumaguete's reputation of being a "university town" as a "thing of the past."

Cold spell spells bad times for fish experts

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—People may be enjoying the cold spell, but fish, particularly warm water species, are sick and dying because most of them could not cope with the season.

Westly Rosario, head of the National Integrated Fisheries Technology Development Center here, said the cold weather often resulted in reduced feeding among fish not used to such condition.

"Decreased feeding would mean (a) slower growth rate and lower resistance to diseases, making them prone to parasitic, bacterial and ulcer-like diseases," Rosario said.

Prone to be affected with slow growth are cultured fish, like *tilapia* and *bangus* (milkfish). The species most likely to be affected by diseases are *gurami*, mudfish, carp, catfish and other wild fish species.

"That is why we recommend that the culture period (be) properly timed so that during the cold months, the fish being cultured are already harvested," Rosario said.

He said officials of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Research Center noted that the weight of their breeder *bangus* decreased because of reduced feeding.

"They cannot eat as much as they do during the warm months. But they are expected to gain weight again as the climatic condition improves," he said.

Aware of the problems brought by climatic changes to aquaculture, the BFAR has started to work on species that can tolerate the cold weather.

The BFAR is conducting research on the *dojo* (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*), a species introduced by the Japanese and which has been found to thrive very well in the mountain towns of the Cordillera.

Fishery experts are developing the hatchery procedure and are setting up a breeding center at the Benguet State University in La Trinidad, Benguet.

They are also studying the freshwater silver perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*) from Australia because it was found to breed during the cold season.

At least 600 sexually matured breeders, imported from Australia three years ago, started spawning by artificial methods last December, Rosario said. ***Yolanda Fuertes with a report from Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

'Lumads' get low budget

OZAMIZ CITY—The provincial government set aside P200,000 "to uplift the condition" of some 10,000 Subanen natives in Misamis Occidental.

However, nongovernment organizations working with the indigenous communities said the budget, which is less than 0.1 percent of the province's annual budget this year, meant nothing as its effects would be felt hardly.

"With P200,000, that gives P20 per Subanen for 2002. Will that suffice? Double it and it would not even make a dent," an NGO official said.

The NGO official, who declined to be identified, said the meager budget given to the *lumads* was "a token commitment, if ever it can be called as one."

However, board member Morpheus Agot said the amount was only an initial appropriation to fund the establishment of physical centers that can be used by the tribe in assemblies and other meetings.

He said these physical centers are to be set up in Barangay Sinampungan of Aloran town, and in BarangayTonggo in Tudela town.

Agot, chair of the committee on Subanen affairs, said the P200,000 appropriation was large enough to help establish the centers, where the Subanens can discuss issues affecting them. ***Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Northern Luzon, Bicol region and the Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will be cloudy with rainshowers. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 23° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Rainy	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Rainy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Loyesa, PDI Research/01/15/02

GenSan needs 700 more teachers

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The local education office lacked 708 teachers in public elementary and secondary schools as of December last year.

In its annual report submitted to the city government, the education department said at least 433 more teachers in high schools and 275 more in elementary schools were needed to address the shortage.

It cited overcrowding and the reduction in the number of hours allotted for class sessions as the reasons for the scarcity of teachers, particularly in Fatima and Cahilsot districts.

Councilor Lulu Casabuena, chair of the city council's education committee, said the local government could not be pressed to hire new teachers unless the national government sets aside a bigger budget.

Casabuena, however, expressed optimism that South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio (first district) would be able to find ways of solving the problem. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Erap loyalists to cap series of protests with Palace rally

(From page A1)

coup threats and destabilization plots.

PMAP leader Ronald Lumbao, whom lawmen are hunting in connection with the May 1 attack on the Palace, denied that his group was planning to sow violence in time for the government's commemoration of People Power II.

Speaking in Filipino in an interview with radio station dzBB, Lumbao assailed the Macapagal administration for supposedly "painting a scenario of violence" for the anniversary of the peaceful uprising, then "laying the blame on me."

A recent intelligence report said Lumbao and other PMAP leaders were planning to mount a so-called "Edsa IV." To this, Lumbao said authorities might even blame Estrada himself or repeat their "old refrain" naming opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson as the mastermind.

Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, belittled the PMAP's capability to mobilize forces.

Maralit said the PNP was expecting "pockets of demonstrations" from cause-oriented groups, but not a mammoth rally from Lumbao's group.

"At this stage, (Lumbao) has no capability to launch a destabilization activity in the magnitude of 'Edsa Tres,'" Maralit said, referring to the protest actions last year at the Edsa Shrine that culminated in the siege of Malacañang.

Job offers

Lumbao claimed that before the elections last May, government emissaries including the President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao had asked him to "join them, and they even offered me various positions."

"But I never sold myself," Lumbao said.

He said the supposed emissaries even warned him that two groups made up of agents of Senators Lacson and Gregorio Honasan were out to kill him and make him a "sacrificial lamb" to ensure the success of the opposition's alleged destabilization plot.

"Of course, I didn't buy this," he said. "It appeared that they were only pressuring me to join them and betray my colleagues in the mass movement and in the opposition."

The efforts of the three PNP teams sent to track down Lumbao have so far proven fruitless.

"He's slippery," Maralit said.

"He's very elusive and mobile," added Director Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the PNP Criminal and Investigation Group, who admitted that Lumbao could not be found at his known residences in Quezon City and Manila.

Asked where Lumbao could be hiding, Gualberto said: "There were persistent reports that he's still here in Metro Manila and that he's moving a lot. Once he was sighted in Quezon City, then in Singalong and Sta. Ana, Manila."

Gualberto challenged Lumbao to surface, citing his statements on radio that he was not in hiding.

"If he's not hiding, why doesn't he come out and call me?" Gualberto said. "If he wants, he can go to Camp Crame or any other area, where I can have him picked up. I assure him of his safety and security."

Judge Teresa Soriano of the Manila Regional Trial Court issued last October a warrant for Lumbao's arrest, to pave the way for his standing trial for rebellion in connection with the May 1 siege of Malacañang.

Soriano said the warrant could be served at Lumbao's address at Hadel corner Tuto Streets, Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental.

Revisits

The PMAP-led activities will begin on Jan. 16 with a protest march to the Senate to "revisit" the walkout of private prosecutors from Estrada's impeachment trial, Obina said.

The next day, Estrada supporters will march to the Supreme Court to revisit the tribunal's decision on the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's assumption to the presidency.

On Jan. 18, the PMAP will lead a protest caravan to Ayala Avenue in Makati to "revisit business and civil society"—sectors that supported Estrada's ouster.

Another march is scheduled on Jan. 20, to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) in Quezon City where Estrada and his son Jinggoy are being detained, for the offering of prayers for the deposed President and for national unity.

The pro-Estrada rallies will culminate on Jan. 21, with a protest march to Don Chino Roces Bridge in Manila leading to the gates of Malacañang.

The PMAP will also lead daily candle-lighting ceremonies at 6 p.m. on Jan. 16-18 at the Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City; the Bonifacio Shrine at the Mehan Garden, Manila; the VMMC gate; the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City; the Pinaglabanan Shrine in San Juan; Morayta Street in Manila; and the Don Chino Roces Bridge.

While Obina urged the poor, Estrada's vaunted *masa*, to take part in PMAP activities, he enjoined them to "remain calm and peaceful in our actions so as to prevent the dark forces that thrive during chaotic times to profit from our gains."

Obina said the supposedly lavish preparations being undertaken by the President "and her few remaining allies" to mark People Power II was just a waste of people's money.

"It is pathetic that GMA and her allies are now maximizing their being in power to commemorate Edsa Dos with pomp and pageantry," he said. "But does the Filipino people have something to cherish, one year after Edsa II?"

Obina said the gap between the rich and the poor continued to widen as the President's "economist" billing had failed to spur growth.

"GMA has lost her moral claim due to the numerous incidents of corruption and anomalies involving her husband and key officials," Obina said.

He also said Malacañang organizers had been dangling from P500 to P700 per person to ensure attendance at the administration's anniversary rites.

'Afraid of the people'

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said it was the height of irony that the administration installed by People Power II should be so afraid of the event's first anniversary that it should place Metro Manila under red alert.

"What we have is a government afraid of the people, afraid of people power, and afraid for itself," he said in reaction to the fielding of 10,000 policemen, or three-fifths of the entire PNP in Metro Manila, to secure the Edsa Shrine and other key areas on Jan. 16-22.

Beltran said Malacañang should expect the anniversary of People Power II to be marked by protests as "no one wants to celebrate (Ms Macapagal's) first year in power."

He said the commemoration of the uprising was not a tribute to the administration but a celebration of the people's victory in ousting Estrada.

Beltran said the lack of enthusiasm for the commemorative rites being prepared by Malacañang "comes as no surprise as the President has succeeded in making herself and her administration unpopular because of her anti-poor position, such as the opposition to the wage hike demand."

He said the scandals supposedly involving members of the First Family and the Cabinet had also eroded the people's confidence and trust.

He also said the one victory of People Power II was Estrada's ouster but that this had been compromised by the Macapagal administration because the ex-President and his son "continue to live the good life" in the VMMC "while the wheels of justice have been stalled in their favor."

Beltran also chided the President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao for claiming that she had lived up to the promises she made in her State of the Nation Address.

"The President promised to keep unemployment levels down, to provide employment for our workers, and to provide decent and adequate housing for the urban poor. What has happened is the exact opposite," Beltran said.

Cops out to prevent a reprise of Edsa Tres

(From page A1)

in the early morning of May 1, Aglipay pledged: "Our PNP elements will no longer be pushed back."

Aglipay said anti-government demonstrators would have to seek permission from the Catholic Church if they intend to hold rallies at the Edsa Shrine.

"If the Roman Catholic Church will permit them, then it's OK," he said. "If not, then that's (Church) property. We have to see to it that their property will not be violated."

Aglipay also said the PNP would hold a dialogue with cause-oriented and other groups planning to stage mass actions outside of those organized by the government.

He said the meeting with such groups as the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Sanlakas and People's Consultative Assembly would be held at noon Thursday at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan.

Aglipay said they would welcome the participation of the pro-Estrada People's Movement against Poverty (PMAP), which spearheaded the mass actions at the Edsa Shrine that culminated in the Labor Day attack on the Palace.

However, Aglipay said, PMAP head Ronaldo Lumbao would be arrested if he shows up. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Private conversations

Apparently doing her part, the President has started talking privately with persons involved in the uprising that catapulted her to power.

"It's been going on. It's so far private conversations," said her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, who declined to name names. "I'm sorry I cannot disclose every private meeting of the President," he said. "If it has impact on policies and programs, that's the only time we will inform you."

Tiglao, however, said Ms Macapagal could not accede to the demand of the PMAP that she apologize for People Power II, which the group said was essentially a military coup that unseated a duly elected president.

The PMAP also wants Ms Macapagal to allow Estrada to leave for the United States to seek medical treatment.

"We cannot apologize," Tiglao said. "The President, in fact, has paid due attention to the fact that the May 1 incident was participated in by the poorest of the urban poor."

He said the Macapagal administration had given the urban poor thousands of housing units and deployed rolling stores selling cheap basic commodities in their communities.

"That is her way of recognizing the demands of those who participated in (the) May 1 (attack)," he said.

As for Estrada's medical treatment in the United States, the ex-President is under the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan, which is trying the plunder cases filed against him, Tiglao said.

Deliberate leak

In a radio interview, Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco virtually admitted that the government had leaked reports of destabilization or coup moves in order to outfox the plotters.

"That's why these news items came out last week—in order to show to them (the plotters) that we know what they're planning," he said in Filipino over radio station dzAR.

Capco said that once exposed, these plots could no longer take off and "there won't be a need anymore to talk about them."

"This government is always ready for these groups, which are out to destabilize it," he also said.

A Malacañang insider had earlier furnished the INQUIRER a copy of a recent intelligence report saying that certain groups including the PMAP were planning destabilization activities in time for the government-led commemoration of People Power II.

Tiglao stressed that Malacañang would keep its doors open to all groups that may want to give "concrete, very detailed demands and suggestions" for the government.

He said a schedule was still being worked out for an open dialogue between the President and People Power II forces before Jan. 20.

From the original plan for a simple commemoration, the Palace decided last week to have a "major event" on Jan. 20, with the President delivering a speech at the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong.

In Davao City, the militant group Bayan Muna said it would hold a reunion of People Power II forces on Jan. 19 to weed out those groups with a suspicious agenda.

Felixberto Irag, secretary general of the Kilusang Mayo Uno in Southern Mindanao, said they would consolidate the various sectors that were members and supporters of the Erap Resign Movement, and assess what they had accomplished.

One of their plans is to hold an "alternative celebration" in the form of protest marches and forums to inform people about the true state of the nation," he said.

Davao City Councilor Angela Librado, who ran under the Bayan Muna ticket in the elections last year, said the alternative celebration was in response to the administration's earlier announcement to hold a 40-day celebration for People Power I and II.

Librado said they were giving Ms Macapagal's performance "a thumbs-down."

Parameters

Senators yesterday said there was a need to lay down certain parameters in the exercise of people power.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel called on Filipinos to stop advocating people power to allow for the orderly implementation of reform programs.

Drilon called on those advocating a so-called "Edsa IV" to give the President a chance to prove her worth.

"I think all kinds of people power initiated to topple governments should be discouraged at this point," Pimentel said. "But more importantly, let us allow the President some elbow room to finish her term and change her in accordance with what is outlined in the Constitution."

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said the Philippines would become a laughingstock of nations if another people power revolt succeeds in toppling the present administration.

Sen. Edgardo Angara pointed out that there was no need to craft a law that would prohibit people power because, he said, the courts could always interpret existing laws governing its exercise and conduct.

Angara noted that the organizers of people power, which he said was a polite term for "mob rule," were actually abusing its good objectives.

"You know, many people are guilty of plundering the bank of goodwill of the people," he said. "They keep talking about people power and they resort to people power, but one should not abuse it. There is a limit to the reserve of goodwill among people."

For Sen. Gregorio Honasan, it is possible to even institutionalize people power by commemorating it, not by celebrating it.

"I think that as of now, all the people power revolutions from I to III have been more divisive than unifying," Honasan said.

He said institutionalizing people power would enable its participants to recall their dreams and aspirations when they first initiated it.

It would also serve as a mechanism for setting aside too much politics and find out what people can stand for instead of what they will stand against, he said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the only way to outlaw people power would be to change the Constitution.

For Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, a deeper study of the phenomenon and putting in more criteria or qualifications to it would give it more meaning.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar said it was still "a long way to go" in achieving the goals of People Power II.

"We cannot really expect much in a span of one year," Villar said, pointing out that it would take 5-10 years for programs of governance to truly have an effect on people's lives.

He stressed that commemorative activities should always be kept simple and austere. ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Joel B. Escovilla and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Another S-211 jet crashes; 6 killed

(From pagwe A1)

so far killed six Air Force pilots.

In 1996 alone, the S-211 figured in six crashes.

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, said the grounding of the S-211 training jets would depend on the assessment of Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor.

Fatalities

Police identified the fatalities as First Lt. Leo Maurice Ramos, pilot; First Lt. Raymund Brian de Guzman, co-pilot; Rosalie Ramos, laundrywoman; Belen del Moro; Maning Apostol; and Pedro Acosta.

At about 4 p.m., two hours after the crash, rescuers were still looking for other possible fatalities.

Reports said the S-211 jets exploded after the crash and burned the houses in the neighborhood.

De Guzman's body was reportedly mangled. Ramos' body was cut into pieces. The body parts were found 20 feet from where the plane crashed.

Ramos and De Guzman belonged to the 5th Fighter Wing of the PAF based at the Basa Air Base in Pampanga.

Senior Supt. Raul Bacalzo, Nueva Ecija police director, who was at the crash site, said Ramos might have tried to eject from the plane. A parachute was found near his body.

Injured

At least four residents were injured and taken to the Cabanatuan City General Hospital. They were identified as Teresita del Moro, 24; Jennifer Diamolin, 18; Cristina del Moro, 16; and Gregorio Alcantara, 78.

Amelia Medina, 42, whose house was burned, said she saw the plane flying low before it crashed. Medina said she gathered members of her family and ran out of their house when she saw the plane slam into the neighborhood.

Resident Alberto Dulle, 31, noticed the plane circling the area twice. He said the plane hit television antennas of several houses before plowing into the neighborhood.

Gertrudes Dulle, M.S. Garcia barangay captain, said the neighborhood where the plane crashed was a former slum area.

"The houses in the area were close to one another and there were houses with two or three families living in them," Dulle said.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information officer of the 600th Air Base Wing in Clark in Pampanga, said the ill-fated plane was on a routine training flight.

He said the training flight was not connected with the Balance Piston, the first Visiting Forces Agreement-related exercise this year of Filipino and American troops.

Firemen from various Nueva Ecija towns put off the fire at 3:35 p.m.

Col. Edgar Elona, commanding officer of the 600th Air Base Wing in Clark, sent a medical team to the crash site. ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***

MOST accident-prone plane in the PAF inventory, the trainer jet, S-211.

Pañero cries foul

(From page A1)

Instead, a fuming Sen. Renato Cayetano confronted Sen. Robert Jaworski over his decision to support the minority's call for Cayetano's expulsion from the chamber.

Jaworski was conferring with Sen. Edgardo Angara on the session floor, with his back turned to Cayetano, when Cayetano marched up to the former basketball great.

"I just want you to know that I mentioned your name in my press conference . . ." an angry Cayetano told his taller colleague, one of four opposition senators who signed a 40-page "opinion" which dissented from the Senate ethics committee report clearing Cayetano of any wrongdoing in the BW case.

But before Cayetano could finish, a stunned Jaworski answered that he had based his decision "on Senate records as compared to the Senate ethics committee report."

"Why should I be expelled?," Cayetano blurted out, before turning his back on Jaworski just as mediamen sensed that something was going on.

The confrontation came moments after Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste adjourned the session.

Cayetano had earlier accused Jaworski of "lawyering" for Partido ng Masang Pilipino spokesperson Crispin Remulla and People's Movement Against Poverty spokesperson Ronald Lumbao, who had filed the complaint before the committee.

Cayetano charged that the former basketball star did not attend a single hearing on the BW stock scandal, yet signed the minority's dissenting opinion.

EXCHANGE of fire: Senators Robert Jaworski and Rene Cayetano. JESS YUSON

Cayetano said Sen. Vicente Sotto, another opposition solon who signed the minority report, attended only one of the four hearings of the committee but nevertheless pushed for his expulsion.

"Obviously, they are lawyering for Remulla and Lumbao," Cayetano said.

Jaworski explained that he had based his judgment on Senate records, which he said did not jibe with the committee report.

"There were many inconsistencies," he said.

But Jaworski admitted that he did not have anything to do with the move to expel Cayetano because "I am not a lawyer and I wouldn't know anything about that."

Flawed report

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Blas Ople were the two other opposition senators who called for Cayetano's expulsion.

"Their (majority) report is flawed. They distorted the facts and applied the wrong evidence against Senator Cayetano, so we recommended the expulsion of the senator," Pimentel told reporters.

According to Pimentel, the majority report prepared by Sen. Francis Pangilinan prematurely cleared Cayetano.

Pimentel said there were enough documents and other evidence presented to the committee proving that Cayetano did not pay for his BW shares even as of this writing, despite the fact that Cayetano had already collected his profits.

"He (Cayetano) entered into some arrangements which are less than transparent and therefore not worthy of being a senator," Pimentel said of Cayetano.

"He did not pay for his shares and that's the proof that we received in the committee, but it was ignored in an attempt to clear Cayetano," he said.

Pimentel accused majority senators in the committee of deliberately ignoring the evidence simply because Cayetano was a member of the majority party.

He likened their call for Cayetano's expulsion to the case of a certain US Senator Patterson, who was expelled from the US Senate for one share of stock obtained under dubious circumstances.

Pimentel said he had already asked the committee to recall the majority report and vowed to carry the fight to the Senate floor.

Personal attack

In a news briefing, Cayetano said the minority's dissenting opinion was a "personal attack on my integrity."

He said the minority "would want to make it appear that I did not pay for the (3 million BW) shares."

Cayetano maintained that he had already paid P9 million for the shares.

"I feel very sorry about the situation, I have not done anything wrong," he added.

Pangilinan, who drafted the majority report, said he was ready to defend the report when it is taken up in plenary.

"I am not surprised by the dissenting opinion because (the minority) is entitled to its own opinion," Pangilinan said.

He maintained that the committee report was based on "law and evidence" and that there was "no effort to haphazardly clear Cayetano."

Pangilinan also noted that, as a "collegial and deliberative assembly," the Senate would be able to come up with its final recommendations on Cayetano's case.

"There will always be several sides to an issue," he said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, one of those who signed the majority report, said the committee had already cleared Cayetano "and that's it."

"(The minority dissenting opinion) is only for show," Arroyo said.

Two aspects

Pimentel said the dissenting opinion had two main aspects.

One was the inherent flaws of Majority Report No. 18, and the other was the existence of hard evidence showing Cayetano's culpability.

The inherent flaws, he said, included distorting the facts of the case, applying the wrong quantum of evidence and clearing Cayetano prematurely.

The hard evidence included the nonpayment of BW shares, favored treatment for the senator, and undue benefit accruing to the senator.

In arriving at the recommendation to expel Cayetano, Pimentel said that the minority group applied the "appearance standard," cited Patterson's expulsion for a similar offense, stressed pertinent provisions of the Code of Conduct and underscored the special obligations of lawmakers.

The minority also stressed that Cayetano should be expelled for demeaning his office as a senator and causing damage to the Senate as an institution.

The opposition recommended the amendment of the Senate's ethics rules, so that committee membership would be equally distributed between the majority and the minority.

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US troops to the rescue

(From page A1)

specifically in Zamboanga and Basilan," Reyes said.

President spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the Americans could return fire if attacked while advising troops at the frontlines.

"For instance, all of a sudden there is an Abu Sayyaf attack on the camp. They can act in self-defense," the presidential spokesperson said in a press briefing.

US planes

The American troops will be bringing in planes and helicopters. Government and military officials earlier said that up to 1,000 American experts were coming over.

"The training objective is, number one, to enhance the capability of the Filipino soldiers in combating the Abu Sayyaf . . . After that we will be in aposition to train ourselves," Reyes said.

American troops will "observe" and "make assessments" as they accompany Filipino troops in hunting down the Abu Sayyaf bandits, he said.

Test mission

American participation in the rescue of the hostages could come about during "test missions" in which they would be allowed to go to the site of the operations.

"When you train there is such a thing as 'live test' or 'field test,'" Reyes said.

But Reyes said the military would try to prevent situations in which American troops would be engaged in actual fighting.

"They're (US troops) behind them (Filipino troops), observing . . . The guiding principle here is that combat operations would be conducted by Filipino troops. We don't want American troops directly engaged in combat. They would only be armed for self-protection," he said.

Balikatan exercises, held between 1981 to 1995, usually involved 3,000 American and Filipino troops but were scrapped in 1996.

During that year, representatives of both countries agreed to suspend large-scale exercises and limit it to "small-scale exercises" involving no more than 20 US personnel and these were held in Luzon.

Balikatan exercises were revived after the Philipines signed a Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the United States in 1999.

Tiglao said the "joint training exercise" would be undertaken under the framework of the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty and the VFA.

Tiglao said Balikatan 02-1 would not involve the setting up of US military facilities in the country as the US personnel "will be based and housed in AFP camps and posts."

As related by Tiglao, the "joint exercise" would not be limited to Mindanao.

Tiglao said that some of the American forces would be "operating out" of the Clark Air Base in Pamanga and the Philippine Air Force Base in Macun, Cebu.

It is not clear whether the US forces will use the General Santos City International Airport, which was built with US funding. The airport can accommodate planes bigger than an Airbus 300.

The prolonged stay of American military consultants is expected to invite legal questions as the 1987 Constitution prohibits the presence of foreign troops in the country.

Good for country

Tiglao, however, said that their presence would be "good for the country."

"Our biggest problem really is the Abu Sayyaf. Not in terms of a military threat but the Abu Sayyaf really has created the perception that we are an Afghanistan," Tiglao said.

"If this could result to the wiping out of the Abu Sayyaf, we'll just have to roll with the punches," he said.

RP-US military exercise in Ternate, Cavite, in February last year. DENNIS SABANGAN

THE OFFICIAL announcement of the participation of US troops in the rescue operations of the hostages in Basilan is made by Defense Secretary Angelo Reys on Monday. AP

No, not Vietnam, says Malacañang of US advisers

BY CARLITO PABLO

IN DEFENDING the arrival of additional American advisers in the country, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the role played by American advisers in Vinam in the 1960s and 1970s was "not actually ba."

Tiglao, a foner activist, said "protests (against US intervention in Vietnam) only broke out when they started sending platoons of Green Berets."

He was reacting to a question whether the active role of American troops in trying to crush the Abu Sayyaf bandits in the country was not unlike that played by US military "advisers" in the early stage of the Vietnam War.

The United States was later caught in a quagmire in Vietnam as it was forced to send combat troops to do the fighting against North Vietnamese forces.

Amid mounting casualties and anti-war protests at home, the United States withdrew in the mid-1970s. The United States lost the war.

Tiglao said the presence of American troops in the country would be "good for the country."

Besides combat troops, personnel who are experts "in non-military but all anti-terrorist operations such as mass communications and social development" will be sent to the country according to Tiglao.

He said that what made the "Mindanao Balikatan plan" different was that it would not involve "a hypothetical enemy."

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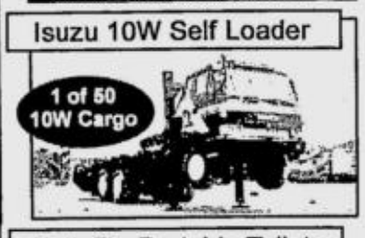
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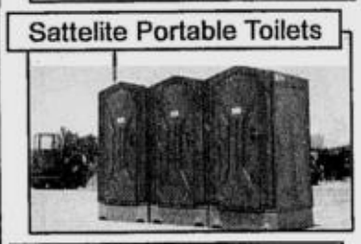
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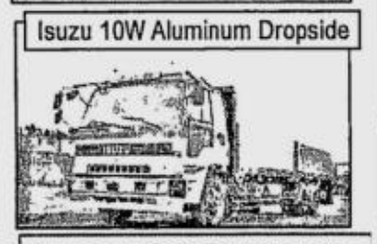
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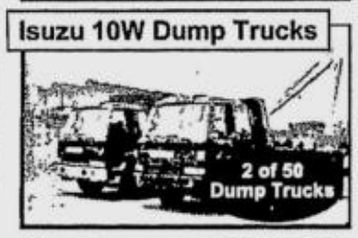
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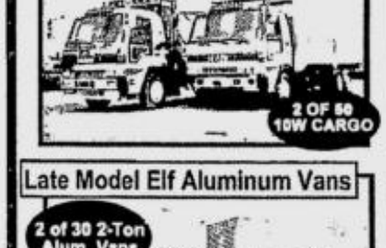
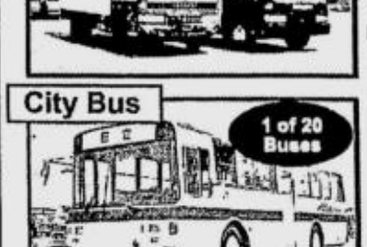
Isuzu 10W Dropsides
2 OF 50 10W CARGO

Isuzu Elf Dropside Single Tire
1 of 120 2-Ton Cargo

Late Model Elf Aluminum Vans
2 of 30 2-Ton Alum. Vans

Late Model Forward Ref Vans
2 of 25 Ref Vans

City Bus
1 of 20 Buses

Miscellaneous Generators
Over 50 Gensets

Virago Motorbikes
2 of 400 Big Bikes

Late Model Honda Dio Scooters
2 of 400 Motorbikes

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Bata vows 3 Asiad golds; Dorothy out of Games

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HERE'S good news and bad news coming from the country's finest athletes of last year: Efren "Bata" Reyes promised to win at least three gold medals in the Busan Asian Games but Dorothy Delasin can't even make it to the national team.

Reyes, Philippine Sports Association's Athlete of the Year for 2001 along with Delasin, predicted that the national billiards team – which he will banner along with a crack squad of cue masters — will pocket no less three gold medals for the country in South Korea in September.

But Delasin won't be able to represent the Philippines because she already has professional status. Ironically, Delasin said she is vying for a slot for the United States team in the Solheim Cup, the female counterpart of the US-versus-Europe Ryder Cup, this year in Minnesota.

Nevetheless, Reyes' forecast brightened up the mood in the press conference called by the Philippine Sports Commission to announce the P1 million gift each given them by President Arroyo last Sunday as incentive.

If Reyes' claim comes true, that would surpass the lone gold, which the Philippines achieved during the 1998 Asiad in Bangkok, when the tandem of Gandy Valle and Romeo Villanueva captured the 9-ball doubles title.

And even if the country fails in the other events, that would duplicate the Philippines' feat in 1994 when Reynaldo Galido, Onyok Velasco and Elias Recaido slugged their way to boxing golds in Hiroshima.

Reyes said the Philippines will be unbeatable in 8-ball, carom and rotation which are only played in the country, Japan, Chinese-Taipei and Korea.

"If I fail to win gold in those events, definitely other Filipino will win it because these events are not played in other countries," said Reyes in Filipino. "As for the other events like snooker and 9-ball, it's going to be a close call for the Philippines."

Repeating his famous beer commercial, Reyes chuckled as he assured the reporters present: "*tayo-tayo rin ang magkikita sa* finals."

BILLIARDS king Efren 'Bata' Reyes (left) and golfing sensation Dorothy Joy Delasin shake hands while flashing their million-peso smiles yesterday at the Holiday Inn. JIM PUNZALAN

Kelly succeeds on 200th try

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Jerry Kelly found his 200th try was the charm.

The 35-year-old American won his first PGA Tour title in 200 career starts, firing a final-round par 70 here Sunday to win the four million-dollar Hawaiian Open by one stroke over compatriot John Cook.

Kelly, twice a PGA runner-up, avenged a disappointing defeat at the hands of Cook at last year's Reno-Tahoe Open, never losing the lead he grabbed after the third round. Kelly sank a two-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole for the triumph.

Kelly, ranked 82nd, finished the first full-field event of the season at 14-under 266 to claim the 720,000-dollar top prize.

"It is burning me up inside right now," Kelly said. "I'm not going to be able to sleep for a week."

The Wisconsin native took inspiration from the American football heroics of his home-state hero Brett Favre, who led the Green Bay Packers to a playoff victory earlier Sunday.

"It was a sweep," Kelly said. "I really put Brett Favre in my mind."

SPORTSWATCH

Gerry to train in US

WBC International super flyweight champion Gerry Penalosa is scheduled to leave for Los Angeles in March to train under American Freddie Roach. Roach was instrumental in honing the skills of Manny Pacquiao when he won the IBF super bantamweight title over champion Lelohonolo Ledwaba of South Africa last June 24 in Las Vegas. Peñalosa's manager, lawyer Rudy Salud, said he expects Peñalosa to successfully defend his title against Philippine champion Joel Avila tentatively set for late February or the first week of March at the Makati Coliseum before leaving with Roach.

Andre, Serena fall

MELBOURNE, Australia—Injuries knocked out defending champion Andre Agassi and helped bring down French Open winner Gustavo Kuerten on Monday, suddenly making the durable Yevgeny Kafelnikov the second-ranking man in the Australian Open. No. 5-seeded Serena Williams dropped out with a twisted ankle. Sandrine Testud fell 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 to French compatriot Nathalie Dechy. Kuerten lost, 3-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 to France's Julien Boutter, ranked No. 53. Kafelnikov beat Michael Kohlmann 6-3, 6-3, 6-2. *AP*

Shaq finally snaps

CHICAGO —If his first punch had connected, Shaquille O'Neal would be facing a far harsher penalty. After years and years of being on the receiving end of the Hack-a-Shaq defense, O'Neal finally snapped Saturday night when he was fouled hard by Brad Miller and Charles Oakley of the Chicago Bulls. O'Neal immediately went after Miller and threw two roundhouse punches while Miller had his back turned. The second one connected before O'Neal and Miller fell to the floor and a full-scale melee broke out. The NBA was reviewing the fight Sunday, and a multi-game suspension seemed likely. **COMPLETE RESULTS:** Clippers 79, Raptors 72 ; Kings 103, Suns 100; Trail Blazers 96, Cavaliers 64. *AP*

Spring Oil prevails

REIGNING National Open champion Spring Cooking Oil-Oishi blasted La Union, 102-76, last Saturday to make it to the first JV Ejercito Cup basketball finals at the San Juan gym. Mar Reyes scored 20 points to lead four others in double figures as the Cooking Oil Masters of shooter Tac Padilla and Herbert de Jesus arranged a best-of-three title showdown with Boysen Paints starting tomorrow.

Masuoka tops Dakar

DAKAR, Senegal — Japanese driver Hiroshi Masuoka won his first Dakar Rally title on Sunday, ending a grueling 17-day trek through France, Spain and the Sahara desert. Masuoka and his French co-pilot Pascal Maimon crossed the finish line with a lead of 22 minutes and 1 second over last year's winner, Jutta Kleinschmidt of Germany. *AP*

Packers beat 49ers

GREEN BAY, Wisconsin —Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes as the Green Bay Packers stayed perfect at home in the playoffs with a 25-15 victory over San Francisco on Sunday. *AP*

We are not shutting door on SEAG bidders–Dayrit

VENUS Williams on her way to a centercourt 6-2, 6-2 first round victory over fellow American Ansley Cargill at The Australian Open Tennis Championships in Melbourne on Monday. AP

CELSO Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, yesterday said he is not shutting the door on the 2005 Southeast Asian Games aspiring hosts but maintained that only Manila matches the criteria set by the Olympic body so far.

He also denied having endorsed Manila as the SEAG hub of activities and stressed that it is "only a point of reference since Manila is capable of hosting the Games as shown in the past."

Dayrit also bared the controversial guideline in selecting the rightful host of the SEAG, which drew flak from different sports leaders and government officials.

He said in order to gain the right to host the centerpiece events of the SEAG like the opening and closing ceremonies, track and field and swimming competitions, the venue must be capable of hosting 20-25 sports events at the same time.

It must be able to accommodate the estimated 5,000 athletes and officials, some 600 technical officials, and an undetermined number of media people and foreign and local tourists. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

GMA has final say

POC president Celso Dayrit yesterday clarified "misimpressions" on selecting the final host of the Southeast Asian Games the country will be staging in 2005. "Of course, the POC will give President Arroyo the courtesy of naming the final host of the 2005 SEA Games," said Dayrit, "but this will have to be based on the recommendation of the inter-agency task force that will be formed for the sportsfest and from the technical inputs the POC will provide."

St. Benedict hosts Checkmate

ST. BENEDICT College will play host for the first Milo Checkmate Saturday-only clinic in Muntinlupa City starting Jan. 19 up to Feb. 24.

Located inside Alabang Hills, the clinic will be held for six consecutive Saturdays and one Sunday from 7-11 a.m. at the HS student lounge.

Chess enthusiasts, aged 5 years old and above, in nearby cities and provinces like Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Taguig, Laguna, Cavite and Batangas can avail of the clinic.

Also starting this Saturday, classes at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (Badminton Bldg.,) Vito Cruz, Manila will be adjusted from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The clinic in San Juan will be from 2:30-6:30 p.m. at the 2/F Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Center.

Enrollment at SBC is accepted at the controller's office and payment at the cashier. In Manila and Greenhills, enrollees are advised to register at the venue site at least one hour before the classes formally begin. Deadline for registration is until Jan. 26. For details, call the Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560.

Four-way tie for lead

WIJK AAN ZEE—Victories by Michael Adams of England and Dutchman Jan Timman in the second round of the prestigious Corus Chess Tournament on Sunday moved them into a tie for the lead, with Israeli Boris Gelfand and Hungary's Peter Leko, who both drew. *AP*

2nd Ucap derby starts today

THE "2nd Ucap/Blue Blade PE San Pablo 7-Cock Derby" is all set today at Mandaluyong Coliseum with 53 fights on tap. Derby starts at 6 p.m. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

The event, to be hosted by engineer Sonny Lagon and Pol Estrellado of San Pablo, Laguna, comes on the heels of the record-breaking "Mandaluyong International 9-Cock Derby" last week.

Seeing action tonight are Ucap stalwarts like Esting Teopaco, Capt. Ben Rodriguez, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Ucap president Butch Macasaet, Mario Villamor, Alex Tang, Ramon Manzanares, lawyer Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, Boy de Roca and Jet Fernando, among others.

Meanwhile, about 40 cockers from Rizal, Pasig, Pateros, Ilocos, Pangasinan, Zambales, Zamboanga and Ilo-Ilo are seeing action in the upcoming "Pit Master 6-Cock Derby" on Jan. 22 and 24 to be hosted by Rey Lee.

Golf's immense power

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

GOLF proved once more that it is the game of world leaders. On Sunday, Dorothy Joy Delasin played 18 holes with President Macapagal-Arroyo at Wack Wack.

"No, I didn't play against the U.S. Open champion," said the President in describing her round with Dot. "I played with Dorothy and I really learned a lot from her."

Of all sports, only golf players are privileged to brush elbows even with kings and other royalty.

If Michael Jordan came over, would he be also given the chance to play basketball with President Macapagal-Arroyo?

Of course not and the reason is obvious: The President doesn't play the game.

But even if Jordan plays golf (he's a single-digit handicapper), still he wouldn't be given that chance to play golf with Ate Glo. Jordan is basketball and basketball is Jordan. Jordan can never be golf.

In his time, Jerry West, the legendary Los Angeles Laker, was a Manila visitor. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Allen Iverson and Kobe Bryant also came over. But, like West, they were not even introduced to the Chief Executive.

It's always different if you are a golfer.

When he was still around, Marcos always gave special attention to visiting golfers: Palmer, Player, Nicklaus. Ever lesser lights like Fuzzy Zoeller were almost accorded state importance by the late dictator.

FVR was thrilled no end when Tiger Woods blew into town in 1998. The former President's thrill was tripled when Smart paired him with Woods in a round at Mimosa in Angeles City.

Even Erap tried to learn how to hit a golf ball when he was still a Malacañang occupant.

I'm sure Ate Glo enjoyed every minute of her round with Dorothy. And you better believe it when she said she learned a lot from the celebrated golfer.

Of all sports, only golf has the power to instantly transform an adult into a child.

Lyceum overwhelms PMI

JOANNE Caso and Aileen Grajales sparkled as Lyceum drubbed Philippine Maritime Institute, 64-47, to share the early lead with Polytechnic University of the Philippines in the quarterfinals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball tournament at the Lyceum Gym. Caso and Grajales had 18 and 14 points, respectively as the Lady Pirates opened the round with a 4-0 card to tie PUP.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

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TENNIS: Australian Open at 8 a.m. on Sky Cable 29 and Home Cable 17.
POOL: World Pool League 2001 at 12 noon and 10 p.m. (r) on ESPN
Rack 'Em Up - Mosconi Cup Finals at 7 p.m. on ESPN
BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Notre Dame vs Syracuse at 8 a.m. (r – 5 p.m.), Texas vs Texas Tech at 10 a.m., Air Force vs New Mexico at 1 p.m. on ESPN
TENNIS: Hopman Cup 2002 - Switzerland vs Australia at 9 p.m. on Star Sports
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

ASIAN GAMES STINT

Jong to devise new plans for RP 5

BY JUNE NAVARRO

A DAY after being named as the new head coach of the PBA-backed national team to this year's Asian Games, Jong Uichico said he would implement his own programs in forming the team based on what he had learned from Ron Jacobs.

"I will adopt the plan laid down by coach Ron but only until the two national training teams are formed. After that, I will have to design my own plans and implement it," said Uichico, San Miguel Beer's bench tactician.

Originally, Jacobs set out a blueprint where two teams are expected to compete against the 10 teams in the PBA during the first conference slated on Feb. 10 before selecting the 12-man national squad to the Asiad.

Uichico said the 17 PBA cagers earlier picked by Jacobs will have automatic slots in the pool while he ponders on the total number of players to be included in the training team.

Uichico said he would form the two training teams based on Jacobs' interests but the selection of the final 12 players depends primarily on his wishes.

He envisions two point guards, two pure shooters, two slashers, a couple of bangers and a handful of bigmen all equipped in making the country's Asiad stint successful.

The search for those types of players will resume Monday next week, a week before Uichico submits the final list of the 24 candidates to the national training pool.

"I know the general idea of coach Ron's battle plan but he never get to discuss the details of the program with us," said Uichico, Norman Black's deputy during the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad.

Uichico still has to name his assistants but already appointed Coke's Binky Favis, whose main task is to scout the enemy.

Eric Altamirano of Purefoods and Barangay Ginebra's Allan Caidic are the most logical choices as the two had the inside track on Jacobs' system.

The 59-year-old Jacobs suffered a stroke last December and is still confined at the ICU of St. Luke's Medical Center.

Uichico: "I know the general idea of coach Ron's battle plan."

FILE PHOTO

Welcoat seeks vital win vs ICTSI

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark-	9	4
ICTSI	9	4
Welcoat	8	5
Blu	7	6
Kutitap	7	6
Ana	4	9
Ateneo	4	9
Montaña	4	9

GAMES TODAY:
(Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Blu Detergent vs Kutitap
5:30 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Welcoat

BY DENNIS EROA

WITH ITS main players still in euphoria after taking center stage in the recent PBA draft, bemedalled Welcoat tries to stay alive for a semifinals berth when it tackles leader ICTSI-La Salle today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Six of the top 10 draft picks are active PBL cagers with newcomer FedEx making Welcoat center Yancy de Ocampo (1) and teammate Ren Ren Ritualo (8) as cornerstones of their campaign.

RITUALO

Other Welcoat players drafted were Derick Canlas (7), Jojo Manalo (2nd round), Celino Cruz (3rd round, and Eugene Tan (5th round). Also emerging as first rounders were Miguel Noble (6th), Chester Tolomia (9th) and Leo Avenido (10th).

Fears were raised that Welcoat coach Junel Baculi may no longer squeeze the best from the draftees. But Ritualo, named by the PSA as amateur basketball player of the year, said he still has unfinished business in the PBL.

"It will be nice to say goodbye to the PBL by helping Welcoat win the Challenge Cup," Ritualo told the INQUIRER last Sunday at the Glorietta. "I owe a lot to the Welcoat management, the fans and the league."

The ICTSI-Welcoat tussle is set at 5:30 p.m. after the 3:30 match between Blu Detergent and Kutitap Toothpaste.

A loss will relegate the Paintmasters to the quarterfinals, while the Green Archers gain the twice-to-beat advantage in the crossover semifinals.

ICTSI downed Welcoat, 88-83, in the first round but coach Franz Pumaren sees rough sailing in their rematch.

"We're not favored here. This is an entirely different ballgame," Pumaren said.

Point guard Mike Cortez, BJ Manalo, James Yap, Rommel Daep and Willy Wilson and Dominic Uy banner ICTSI's attack.

To make their first-ever semifinals appearance, the Archers need to check the inside plays of skyscrapers Yancy de Ocampo and Derick Canlas. With Ritualo, Manalo and Brixter Encarnacion shooting from the outside, Pumaren may abandon the zone and use their usual full-court, trapping defense or gamble with the man-to-man with emphasis on doubling the 6-foot-8 De Ocampo in the shaded lane.

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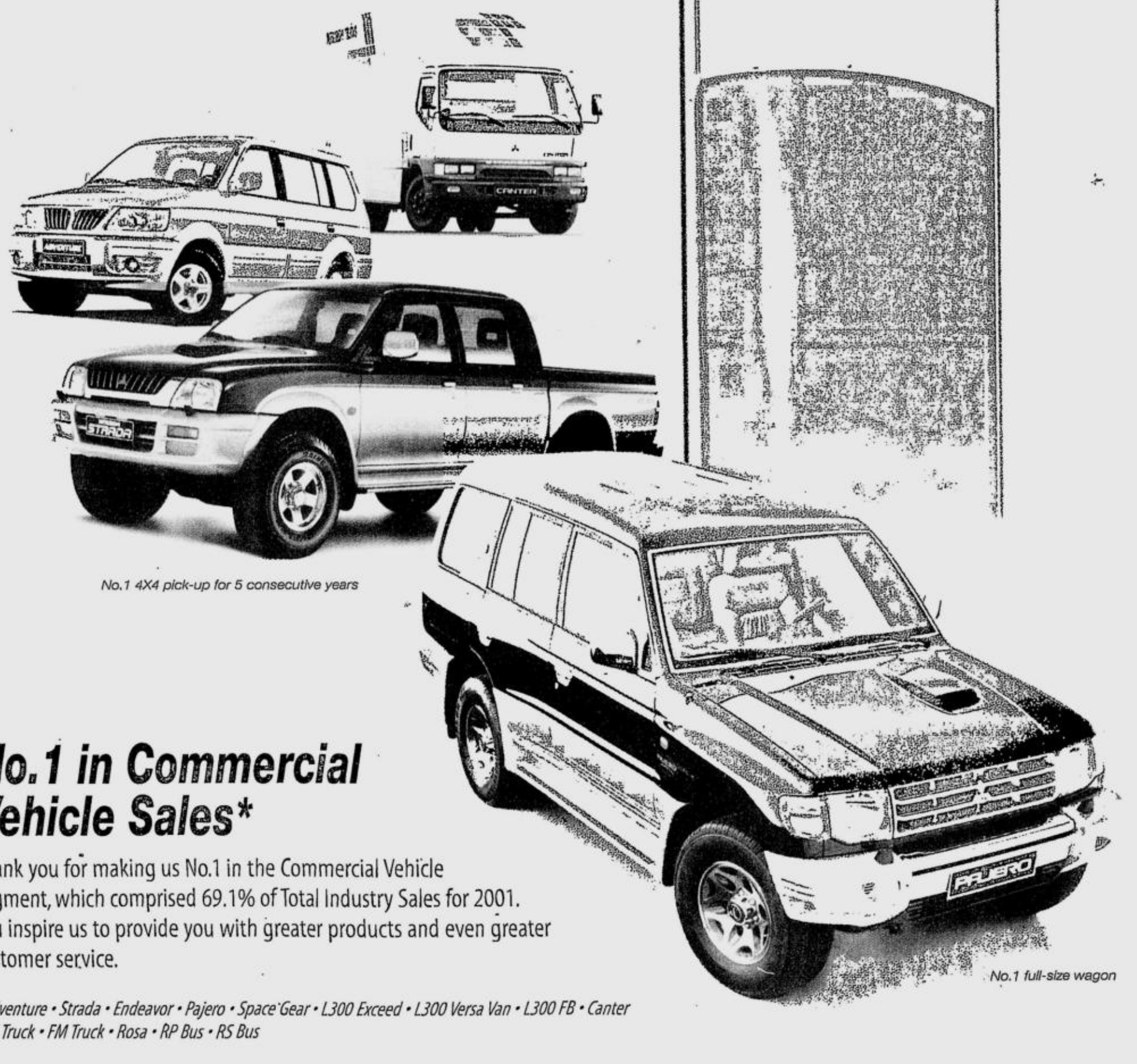

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*Based on 2001 CAMPI/TMA Report

Bright lights, fewer crimes

OWNERS of big businesses have to put up bright lights around their establishments before they can be issued business permits this year. Mayor Lito Atienza said the lights could deter criminals and protect people in busy places like Sta. Cruz, Quiapo, Binondo, Malate and Ermita. *Jerome Aning*

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Traffic discipline zones' identified

MMDA, police, LTO, DOTC to enforce rules

BY ALCUIN PAPA

UNDISCIPLINED bus drivers, identified as one of the chief causes of the monstrous traffic jams and accidents on Edsa, will be under close watch from traffic enforcers, who are expected to strictly enforce traffic rules and regulations at five major intersections on Metro Manila's premier highway.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said the intersections of Edsa-Taft, Edsa-Guadalupe, Edsa-Shaw Boulevard, Edsa-Ortigas Avenue, and Edsa-Aurora Boulevard have been identified as traffic discipline zones (TDZ) and would be manned by personnel from the MMDA, the police, the Action Center of the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Land Transportation Office.

Abalos said he has already warned the Metro Manila Bus Operators Association to inform its members to strictly follow traffic rules and regulations at these five zones or face corresponding penalties for traffic violations.

He also urged bus operators to police their ranks, especially with regard to colorum and out-of-line buses.

MMDA statistics show that at least 400 buses out of more than a thousand passenger buses using Edsa are illegal or do not have the proper permits from the Land Franchising and Regulatory Board to operate along Edsa.

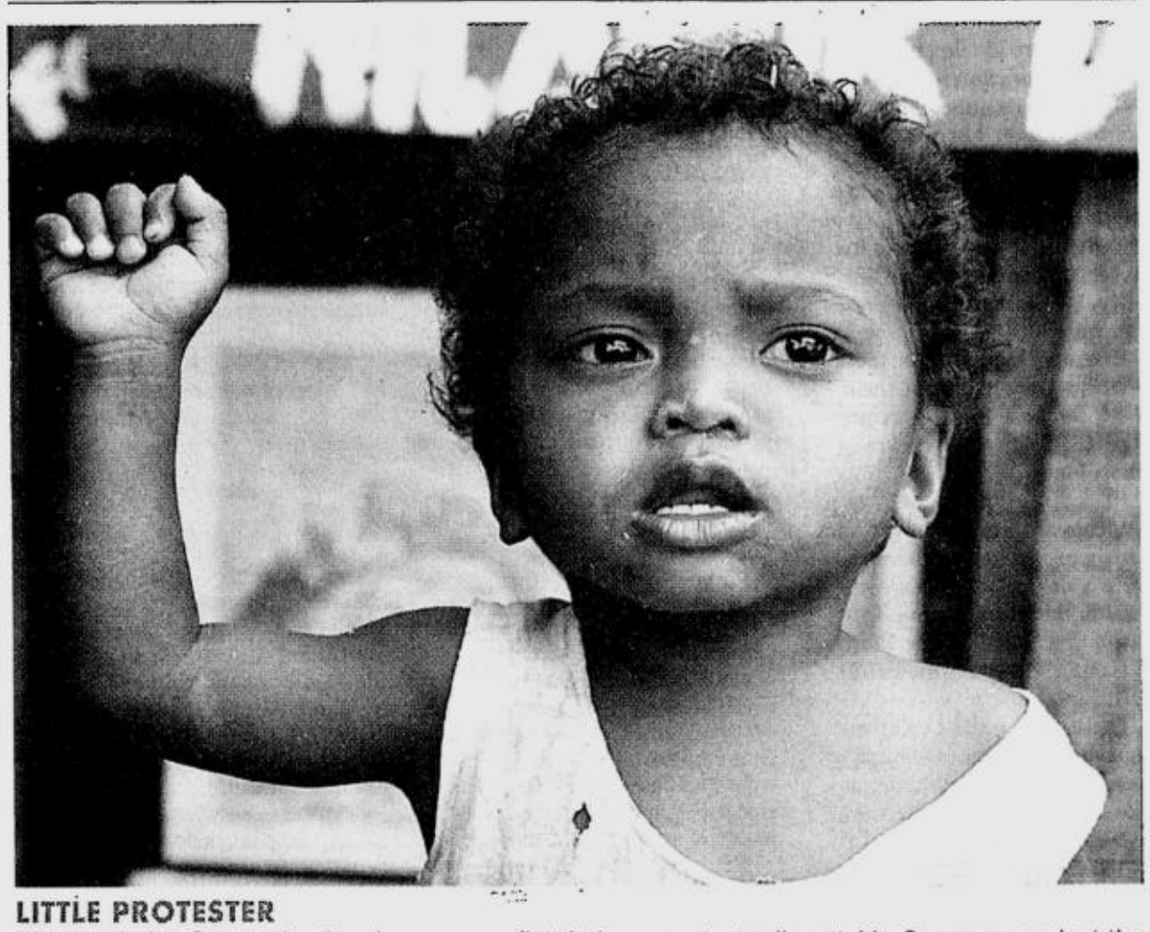
"This is one of the reasons why Edsa and its intersections from Caloocan City to Pasay City are congested," Abalos said.

He has been hard-pressed to solve the worsening traffic situation in Metro Manila.

Another reason for traffic jams are the major infrastructure projects being completed in major thoroughfares in the metropolis.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong said on Sunday that he is cracking the whip on project management officials and contrac-

TRAFFIC DISCIPLINE/ A22



LITTLE PROTESTER
Nicanor de los Santos Jr., 2, raises a puny fist during a protest rally outside Congress against the "militarization" of their community in Rizal. Soldiers reportedly killed his father Nicanor Sr. last Dec. 8 on suspicion that he was a communist rebel. JOAN BONDOC

Rizal landfill opens Thursday

BY ALCUIN PAPA

ABALOS

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos appealed to households in the metropolis to continue segregating their trash even as he announced the opening of the 17-hectare landfill in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal on Thursday.

In a news briefing yesterday, Abalos assured residents of Metro Manila that garbage would not pile up on the streets anymore with the opening of the landfill.

The landfill has been approved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the local gov-

RIZAL/A22

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HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, Basement Level, SM North, Q.C.
• 3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg. Greenbelt Shopping Centre, Mkt.
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Patience, cops tell family of Strawberry

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

AS INVESTIGATORS are still trying to determine who killed former child actress Strawberry, police yesterday asked her family to be more patient in awaiting the official result of the investigation.

Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, chief of the Southern Police District, said the Las Piñas police would soon file criminal charges against the person or persons responsible for the death of Strawberry, whose real name is Anouk Baldo.

Strawberry was killed during a traffic altercation last Dec. 18 between her boyfriend John Mark Doromal and his security aides and businessman Reynaldo Picar and his group at BF Executive Village in Las Piñas City.

A composite investigating body from Las

PATIENCE/ A22

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Accused 'also thirst for justice'

THE PARENTS of the five accused in the killing of Edwin Joseph Lopez in Malate, Manila on Aug. 17, 1999 yesterday said the media statements of the victim's mother were "irresponsible and preemptive."

"The press statements were obviously a desperate attempt to influence the outcome of the decision to be rendered by the Manila Regional Trial Court on Thursday," the parents of one of the suspects said in a statement.

MRTC Judge Priscilla Baltazar-Padilla is expected to render her decision on Thursday on the case of car theft with homicide filed against the five suspects.

Priscilla Lopez last week issued a statement saying she and her family "thirst for justice" for the death of her son Edwin.

"We deeply symphatize with Mrs. Lopez on the death of her son," the parents of one accused said in their own statement. "However, we are thirstier for justice and truth for our... children. We understand her anguish but we (will) feel the same way if our sons are convicted wrongly.

"We believe that the honorable judge is a God-fearing person and we trust her decision will be fair and honest," they said.

They also appealed to the Lopezes to stop resorting to media publicity "to pre-condition the mind of the judge." "This is foul," they added.

PENCIL PUSHERS JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Members of the Western Police District arrest three Chinese for allegedly selling fake Mongol pencils in their stores in Divisoria, Manila.

'Traffic discipline . . .

(From page A21)

tors who are found to be delaying the completion of key projects. He said traffic would be greatly improved in Metro Manila as early as next year if the projects would be completed on time, like the P672.2-million Edsa-Quezon Avenue interchange.

Once completed, the interchange would accelerate passage through two of the busiest roads in the metropolis.

With a report from Armand N. Nocum

Religious charlatans

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I STIRRED a hornet's nest in my reports about the plan by two big religious groups, El Shaddai and Iglesia ni Cristo, to take part in massive rallies starting Jan. 20 aimed at destabilizing the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

I got those reports from a participant in several meetings presided over by El Shaddai founder Mike Velarde, which mapped out plans for the month-long mass action.

Some members of these religious groups were reportedly so angry at the reports they threatened to attack me.

And these jerks call themselves Christians!

***

Believe you me, I'm used to threats and people trying to do me harm. It comes with the territory.

But I can only shake my head in disbelief that some people, who profess to follow Christ's teachings of love, would want to harm a man for doing his job as a journalist.

Bakit, dahil binisto ko ang kagaguhan ng inyong mga lider?

***

Charlatans. That's what some people who preach the teachings of Jesus Christ are.

They might as well teach their followers to worship Satan. They teach brotherly love in the name of Jesus, but at the same time allow some of their followers to issue veiled threats to me on their TV station.

They've been so used to some politicians kneeling before them they think journalists should do the same.

Sirs, politicians shudder before your holy presence because they want you to order your members to vote for them. As for me, I don't have any political ambitions.

***

To the members of these religious groups who have a mind of their own: Follow the teachings of your church elders when it comes to loving God, your fellow human being and even your enemy.

But will you have to follow them when they tell you to overthrow the present government, for example, or vote for a bastard? It's just like telling you to go jump in the polluted Pasig River!

The best guide is to follow your conscience because that's God talking to you.

***

I hope members of a certain religious cult realize they are asked—nay, ordered—to vote for certain candidates under pain of eternal damnation not because of a biblical injunction for all its members to act in unison, but because those candidates become "milking cows" or "robots" of their church after they get elected.

In short, their leaders get concessions from politicians in power. The concessions are not for the church, but for certain church leaders.

These concessions are in the form of government contracts.

***

El Shaddai's Velarde wants his followers to join him in destabilizing the present government not out of principle, but out of revenge.

Remember, a plunder case was filed with the Ombudsman against him and some government officials for allegedly grossly overpricing a piece of real estate he sold to the government. The case was dismissed recently.

But Velarde apparently has not forgotten the humiliation of being tagged "plunderer of people's money."

***

Kidnappers and other troublemakers have gotten the goat of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

It's now a war between Duterte and the criminals and trouble-makers.

I'll bet the controversial mayor will win as he always did in fighting crime.

***

Duterte has linked a police superintendent in Cotabato City and a police inspector in Digos, Davao del Sur, to gangs composed of Moro kidnappers.

The mayor can't touch those police officers unless they set foot in his city. Therefore, the superiors of these police officers should take a cue from the mayor.

Why did it have to take the mayor, and not their superiors, to divulge the activities of these scalawags?

The answer is obvious: their superiors were tolerating them. Why? Because they get "commissions" from these scalawag subordinates.

***

Moros who are involved in kidnapping and other crimes are publicly disowned by their comrades in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) or Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

These rebel groups call their errant members "lost command."

But there's no such thing as "lost command" because they have the blessings of the MILF or MNLF.

The kidnappers belong to the MNLF or MILF's dirty tricks department.

Let's not kid ourselves: even the terrorist Abu Sayyaf of Sulu and Basilan take orders from the MNLF.

Rizal landfill . . .

(From page A21)

ernment concerned and the Society of Sanitary Engineers, which earlier opposed the landfill.

But Abalos said only residual waste, which is estimated to be 2,000 tons daily, would be dumped at the landfill. He said all necessary infrastructure projects like access roads to the site have been finished along with the environmental safeguards to ensure that there would be no seepage.

The three materials reduction facilities (MRF) will serve as the processing area for all the garbage collected in the metropolis before garbage contractors transfer the waste to the landfill. Some 6,000 tons of garbage are collected daily in Metro Manila.

"The 2,000 tons are the residual wastes of the total collection as we intensify our waste recovery program," Abalos said.

He said that with the opening of the landfill, the MMDA could now concentrate on clearing Metro Manila esteros of garbage.

He said MMDA would deploy environmental sanitation officers to arrest people dumping garbage in the esteros.

"We should implement strictly the law against dumping waste in our esteros because it ends up in our river systems," Abalos said.

Most of the garbage dumped in esteros comes from squatter families living around the waterways, he said.

Patience, cops . . .

(From page A21)

Piñas police, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, and the National Bureau of Investigation is consolidating the individual findings of the agencies on the killing, Gutierrez said. He said the findings would be based on the accounts of at least seven witnesses and on other pieces of corroborating evidence.

"This is a matter of perception," Gutierrez said. "Other investigators may have other evidence or witnesses that we didn't get. So we all really have to coordinate."

Police are in the process of determining whether it was Doromal's group or Picar's companions that fired the shots that killed Strawberry.

On Friday, the Las Piñas police said their findings showed the shots came from Doromal and his security guards. But Gutierrez said he would not order Las Piñas authorities to file charges against Doromal and his men until the composite investigating body has reenacted the incident based on the consolidated accounts of the witnesses.

The Picars insist it was Doromal's group that accidentally killed Strawberry.

This was the basis of the attempted murder charges filed by the family against Doromal and four of his security aides before the Las Piñas city prosecutor's office.

But Doromal has consistently denied he and his men fired at the Picars, accidentally killing Strawberry in the process.

ENTERTAINMENT

Change of pace for Bong Revilla

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TAKING his cue from **Robin Padilla**, **Bong Revilla** is veering away from the action route and coming on as a romantic-comedy lead in his new starrer, "Mahal Kita, Final Answer." To boost the movie's comedy quotient, it costars sexy comedienne **Rufa Mae Quinto**.

In the film, Bong plays a self-made man who has distanced himself from his family. He's a playboy who's afraid of commitment. When he meets Rufa Mae, however, he falls hard.

For her part, Rufa Mae's character is a professional contestant in radio and TV tilts. When she works with Bong, she turns out to be his lucky charm. But they have a misunderstanding and they split up. After she leaves, Bong turns to gambling and loses his money.

In the end, of course, they kiss and make up. The ending is standard, but where it takes place is what makes it unique—on the set of "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire," where Rufa Mae is determined to win P2M!

Bong's followers trust that his going no-action for a change will be welcomed by viewers looking for fresh movie formats, just like they approved of Robin's romantic-comedy caper with **Regine Velasquez**.

Fact is, the shift isn't really all that radical for Bong, since he's been starring in the weekly sitcom, "Idol Ko si Kap," for months. But the movies are different from TV, so his change of pace on the big screen is still potentially risky.

Luckily for him, the movie's trailer has been well-received by viewers. We know we aren't supposed to judge a book by its cover, nor a movie by its trailer, but a fun trailer is deemed to be a plus factor in these parts because it gives a film good advance, word-of-mouth publicity, so hopes are high that Bong and Rufa's movie will at least open well.

On the National Geographic Channel

TUESDAY, Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. on "Croc Chronicles," Dr. **Brady Barr** joins forces with crocodile expert Dr. **Gerry Martin** in an effort to save the endangered Indian gharial. For over 20 years, the Indian government has been supporting a rehabilitation project to bring this ancient species back from the brink of extinction.

Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 9 p.m. on "Out There," biologist **Jesus Rivas** ventures into the jungle in search of anacondas bigger than any previously seen by scientists.

Thursday, Jan. 17 at 9:30 p.m. on "Tomorrow's World":—Inside a sleek, metallic building at RAF Benson in Oxfordshire sits the latest in helicopter training—six state-of-the-art helicopter simulators employing the most up-to-date motion platforms and visual display systems available.

—Corals are made up of thousands of tiny, simple animals related to jellyfish. These fragile underwater kingdoms are extremely susceptible to environmental changes.

—The National Geographic Channel may be viewed on Destiny Cable, Las Piñas Cable, Parañaque Cable and the DTH Dream Broadcasting Service.

On Star Movies

TUESDAY, Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m., the film on view is "Lake PLacid." When a man is eaten alive by an unknown creature, a game warden (**Bill Pullman**) teams up with a paleontologist (**Bridget Fonda**) to find the beast. Add to the mix an eccentric philanthropist (**Oliver Platt**) with a penchant for Crocs, and the chase is on.

At 9 p.m., "Pitch Black" is about a crippled spacecraft carrying a murderous prisoner (**Vin Diesel**) that crashes into an unknown planet. The spaceship's crewmen are forced to defend themselves from the now-free madman.

Star Movies is available on Destiny Cable, Las Piñas Cable, Parañaque Cable and the DTH Dream Broadcasting Service.

Focus on Paolo Montalban

THE SHOWING this month of **Laurice Guillen**'s "American Adobo" has local fans of Fil-American actor **Paolo Montalban** in a dither because it will be their first time to see him in a Filipino movie.

Paolo has been seen on local TV screens in his "Mortal Kombat" and "Cinderella" outings, but the cinema gives performers more to play with, so "American Adobo" is a special treat for Paolo's followers here.

He also plays it more adult than in his Prince Charming mode, figuring in a number of sexy encounters with some American actresses in Guillen's film.

He is cast as a Fil-American stud who goes from one panting blonde or black beauty to the next—until the looming specter of A.I.D.S. gives him belated pause.

Paolo's fans hope, of course, that he can shoot a movie here. If "American Adobo" does well at the tills, that could very well happen this year.

Fourth film together

BEN Stiller is now an established and bankable screen comedian, and he's bent to make his best buddy, **Owen Wilson**, also a star comic. To this end, he's worked with Wilson in four movies—"Permanent Midnight," "Meet the Parents," "The Royal Tenenbaums," and now, "Zoolander."

FIRST-TIME screen partners Bong Revilla Jr. and Rufa Mae Quinto in the romantic-comedy, " Mahal Kita, Final Answer."

In their latest movie, actor-writer Wilson plays Hansel, the dashing, new male supermodel who knacks down Zoolander's (Stiller) bid for his fourth Male Model of the Year Award.

Wilson's film debut as actor and screenwriter was in the highly acclaimed "Bottle Rocket." He has also been featured in "Armageddon," "The Haunting," "The Cable Guy" and "Shanghai Noon." With Stiller's continued help, Wilson could become a comedy star in his own right in a few more film seasons.

Vandolph's daughter turns 1

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

THE LOVE child of **Vandolph Quizon** and **Guia Avante** turned one year old last Sunday.

My *hijada* (godchild) **Gabrielle**, who's fondly called Chu-Chu, had a big party at the Ayala Alabang Country Club. The Avantes invited Vandolph's family but none of them showed up. This is understandable since Vandolph is still recuperating from injuries he suffered in a car accident last November, but they could have sent a proxy or even just relayed their good wishes.

Still, the Avantes have no room for bitterness in their hearts. As *Tita* **Bing**, Gabrielle's glamorous grandma, puts it, "The joy that Chu-Chu has brought our clan is more than enough. We are already immune to the 'deadma' treatment from the Quizons. We know that in God's time, everything will be settled between us."

Now that his unica hija has marked her first birthday, may Vandolph himself mark another year in his "second life" and make Gabrielle even just a small part of it.

What stars should junk, Part II

THIS continues my list of suggestions on what some show biz folk should get rid of this year. Just some friendly unsolicited advice.

Sexy stars. Please stop announcing that it's going to be your last bold movie. It's obviously a ploy to lure more viewers, but you only succeed in keeping them away. It ain't over till you run for cover.

Rica Peralejo. Enough of the **Bojo Molina** bashing.

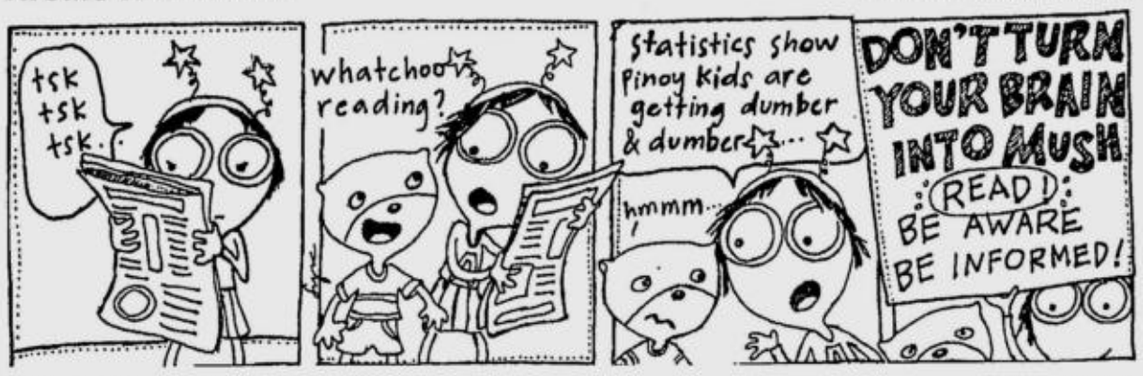
Everyone knows he is your ex-boyfriend. You've been harping about Bojo's not being a good actor and you refuse to be cast in the same film with him. What have you proven in the acting department anyway? Seasoned actresses like **Nora Aunor** and **Vilma Santos** have never lambasted any coactor even if they are in a position to do so.

VANDOLPH'S/A24

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



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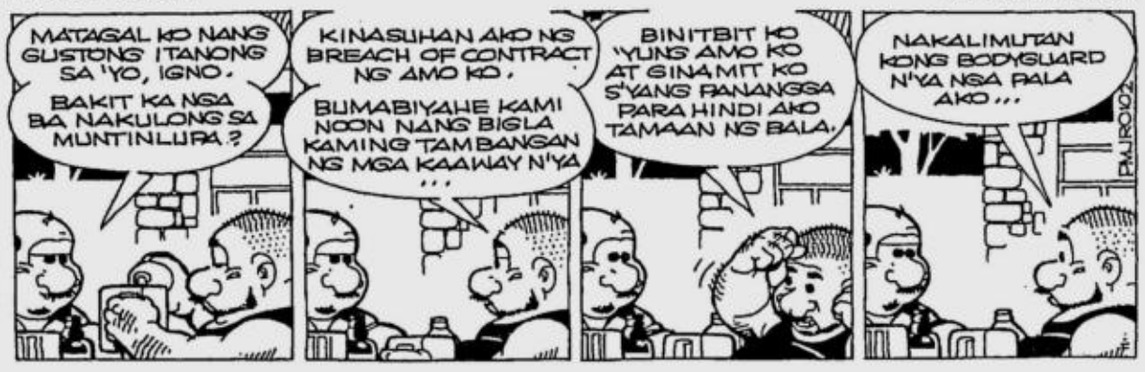


SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL CUISON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Charo, Lloyd Bridges, Martin Luther King Jr.

Happy Birthday: This is a time to reflect on the past to ensure that you don't encounter the same mistakes in the future. If you set your own goals according to what it is you want out of life you won't be disappointed. You are bright, articulate and have what it takes to move up in the world. Your numbers are 8, 20, 23, 34, 42, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be in the mood to interact with friends today. Don't be surprised if someone from your past comes back into your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll work hard to make money. Your aggressive approach to your job is bound to lead to advancement. In your personal life, don't say something that you might live to regret.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Educational pursuits should be on your agenda. You will have more discipline to focus on your creative endeavors. Use your imagination in order to help others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have natural abilities when it comes to healing, homeopathy, yoga and meditation. Your intuition can help you in overcoming obstacles.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can expect to have plenty of activity going on in your home. Greater interaction with friends and relatives will result in a closer bond.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be lucky when it comes to work, investments or any other financial matters. Family expenditures will be tempting, but think twice before you spend money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be eager to get out and socialize today. You will find it easier to express yourself creatively, and you should be promoting your ideas to those in position to help you get ahead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have done all you can to sort things out at a personal level, now all you can do is wait. Take an aggressive role in order to get things done around the house.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will help those less fortunate and you will receive favors from those in high places. Your desire to interact with others will take you where the action is.

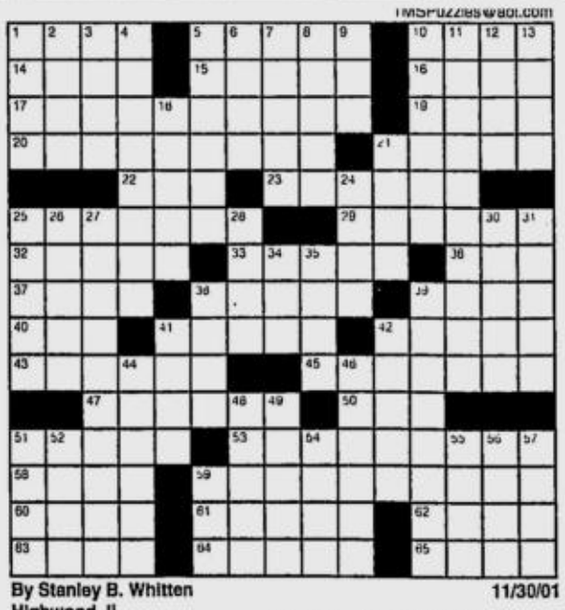
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be ambitious and active in your search for professional standing. Take a look at investments that will involve property, or services or products for the home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will tend to spend too much on pleasure and luxury items. Investments will not be well thought out, and gambling will result in major losses.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will have a strong interest in tradition, culture and family history and excellent rapport with older individuals who can offer you sound advice based on past experience.

Birthday Baby: You are impulsive, independent, sensitive and inventive. You will jump from one thing to another, making it difficult for others to keep up to you. You can be a real handful during your growing years.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

11/30/01

ACROSS
1 Hairless
5 Loosen, as laces
10 Fast jets, for short
14 Toward shelter
15 Jury makeup
16 Mint family member
17 Tall, coarse herb
19 Assist
20 Thrill-seekers
21 Cads
22 '60s radical org.
23 Runt
25 Sweetened
29 See 18D
32 Tropical American lizard
33 Spirited vigor
36 Attila, for one
37 Slant
38 Makes well
39 Final
40 Decay
41 Colt's sisters
42 Bottle inhabitant?
43 Response
45 Goldbrick
47 Small domestic fowl
50 Boxing great
51 Exhaust
53 Whistling pot
58 Outer garment
59 Kin of quoits
60 Farm measure
61 Writer Horatio
62 Persia, today
63 Eldredge on ice skates
64 Appeals
65 Baseball team

DOWN
1 Baroque master
2 Lotion ingredient
3 Indecent
4 Dethronements
5 Ascent
6 Capone's undoer
7 Collapsible shelters
8 Kind of stew or setter
9 Kreskin's forte?
10 Outline
11 Knot for shortening
12 Cultivate
13 Blackjacks
18 With 29A, 1992 Wimbledon champion
21 Lofty
24 Knocks
25 Native-born Israeli
26 Labor group
27 European weed
28 Forbidding
30 1957 Everly Brothers hit song, "Wake Up Little __"
31 Bury
34 Mine find
35 Disorder
38 Trolley
39 Egg yolk constituent
41 Repair
42 Strong winds
44 Kind of poster
46 Shaquille's team
48 Coral reef
49 Combine
51 Ella Fitzgerald's forte
52 Musical direction
54 Sailing the ocean waves
55 Singer Amos
56 "Lawrence of Arabia" director
57 Medieval slave
59 General Arnold's nickname

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

H	A	D	J	■	B	L	O	W	■	A	T	B	A	T
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L	A	R	K	■	B	U	L	L	D	U	R	H	A	M
S	H	E	L	B	Y	■	E	Y	E	D	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	L	E	G	■	■	■	R	E	T	O	R	T
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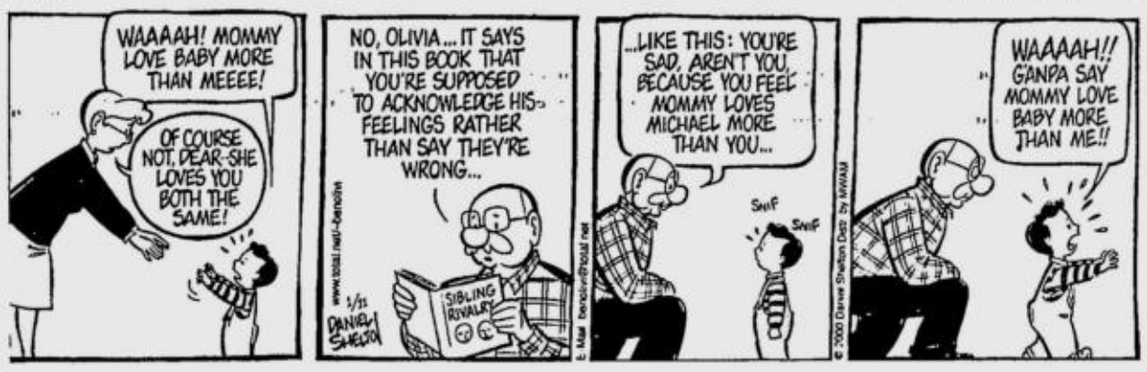

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2 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 SPY GAMES THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 SPY GAMES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 GIRL FEVER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 BAGONG BUWAN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film		4 WEEKEND W/ POPS JAN. 18, 19, 25 & 26 - 9:00 PM Onstage	4 THE LORD OF THE RINGS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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2 LORD OF THE RING	2 GIRLS FEVER	2 LORD OF THE RING
3 LORD OF THE RING	3 GLASS HOUSE	3 LORD OF THE RING
4 GIRLS FEVER	4 ON THE LINE	4 HUBOG
5 SPY GAMES	5 WALANG IWANAN	5 SPY GAMES
6 ON THE LINE	6 LORD OF THE RING	6 KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
7 GLASS HOUSE	7 SPY GAMES	7 WALANG IWANAN
8 BAGONG BUWAN		8 BAGONG BUWAN
9 YAMASHITA		
10 WALANG IWANAN		

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1 ON THE LINE	1 LORD OF THE RING
2 LORD OF THE RING	2 KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
3 LORD OF THE RING	3 GIRLS FEVER
4 GIRLS FEVER	4 SPY GAMES
5 SPY GAMES	5 WALANG IWANAN
6 WALANG IWANAN	6 BAGONG BUWAN
7 YAMASHITA	
8 BAGONG BUWAN	

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2 HUBOG	2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 LORD OF THE RINGS	3 WALANG IWANAN
4 BAGONG BUWAN	4 YAMASHITA
5 SPY GAMES	5 ON THE LINE
6 WALANG IWANAN	6 SPY GAMES
7 LORD OF THE RINGS	7 BAGONG BUWAN
8 ON THE LINE	8 LORD OF THE RINGS
	9 BAHAY NI LOLA
SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 - 7161416	10 GLASS HOUSE
1 LORD OF THE RINGS	11 GIRL FEVER
2 WALANG IWANAN	12 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 SPY GAMES	
4 BAHAY NI LOLA	SM SOUTHMALL 8066080 • 8066782
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6 GIRL FEVER	2 ON THE LINE
7 BAGONG BUWAN	3 SPY GAMES
8 ON THE LINE	4 LORD OF THE RINGS
9 YAMASHITA	5 YAMASHITA
10 HUBOG	6 HUBOG
	7 BAGONG BUWAN
SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749	8 LORD OF THE RINGS
1 GIRL FEVER	9 BAHAY NI LOLA
2 BAHAY NI LOLA	10 WALANG IWANAN
3 YAMASHITA	
4 LORD OF THE RINGS	SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820905
5 HUBOG	1 KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
6 WALANG IWANAN	2 LORD OF THE RINGS
7 SPY GAMES	3 WALANG IWANAN
8 LORD OF THE RINGS	
9 BAGONG BUWAN	SM CEBU 2313876
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11 ON THE LINE	2 SPY GAMES
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	4 MUSKETEER
SM CITY MANILA 5230240	5 BAHAY NI LOLA
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2 SPY GAMES	7 BAGONG BUWAN
3 YAMASHITA	
4 ON THE LINE	SM ILOILO 3209422
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6 LORD OF THE RINGS	2 CLOSED
7 GIRL FEVER	3 MUSKETEER
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9 LORD OF THE RINGS	5 BAGONG BUWAN
10 HUBOG	6 OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
11 WALANG IWANAN	7 CLOSED
12 BAGONG BUWAN	8 YAMASHITA
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1 LORD OF THE RINGS	1 SPY GAMES
2 ON THE LINE	2 ROCKSTAR
3 SPY GAMES	3 YAMASHITA
4 LORD OF THE RINGS	4 BAGONG BUWAN
5 GIRL FEVER	5 ON THE LINE
6 GLASS HOUSE	6 HUBOG
7 YAMASHITA	
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10 LORD OF THE RINGS	2 SPY GAMES
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12 TATARIN	4 WALANG IWANAN
SM TUTUBAN 2514302	SM DAVAO
1 LORD OF THE RINGS	1 YAMASHITA
2 WALANG IWANAN	2 BAHAY NI LOLA
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6 GOLD (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
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9	WALANG IWANAN
10	HUBOG

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3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
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7	RESERVE
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2	BRO
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG

GOTESCO CINEMA

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1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
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5	WALANG IWANAN
6	ON THE LINE
7 (DTS)	SPY GAMES
8 (SDDS)	GLASS HOUSE
9 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS

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Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

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2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	HUBOG
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5	WALANG IWANAN
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7 (DTS)	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
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2	LORD OF THE RING
3	YAMASHITA

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3	WALANG IWANAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	SPY GAMES
3	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
4	WALANG IWANAN
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
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2	BRO
3	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

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1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	

Berma tel 879.2029

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2	WALANG IWANAN

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1	KAMI AY TAO LAMANG
2	BRO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2196

1	HUBOG
2	WALANG IWANAN
3 (DTS)	SPY GAMES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

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2 (DTS)	WALANG IWANAN
3 (DOLBY)	SPY GAMES
4	HUBOG

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

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3 (DTS)	SPY GAMES
4	HUBOG

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HUBOG
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

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2	ENGKUWENTRO
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4 (DTS)	SUMMER CATCH

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3	WALANG IWANAN
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Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

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2	WALANG IWANAN
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4	BUBOT
5	YAMASHITA

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2	HUBOG
3	LORD OF THE RINGS

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249-2558

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2	HUBOG
3	SPY GAMES

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3	SUSMARYOSEP

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3	MUSKETEERS

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

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2 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

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Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

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2	KING OF GLADIATOR
3	YAMASHITA
4	BAGONG BUWAN

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPY GAME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	GIRL FEVER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ON THE LINE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ROSARIO-18/TEMPRESS AFFAIR
ODEON	WALANG IWANAN
ODEON-2	LORD OF THE RING
ROBEN	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	KNIGHT'S TAIL / THE BODY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
REMAR	WALANG IWANAN
REMAR-2	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAGONG BUWAN
B	WALANG IWANAN
C	KAMIY TAO LAMANG
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
CINEMA-3	KAMI'Y TAO LAMANG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GIRL FEVER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	WALANG IWANAN
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	YAMASHITA
CINEMA-8	TATARIN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPY GAME
CINEMA-12	ON THE LINE
CINEMA-14	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-15	LORD OF THE RINGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-3	SPY GAME
CINEMA-4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-5	SPY GAME
CINEMA-6	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 1:00, 4:30, 8:00	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 2:35, 6:05, 9:35	SPY GAME - P 13 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 1:50, 5:20, 8:50	SPY GAME - P 13 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

Vandolph's . . .

(From page A22)

Did being bitter come with the package when you shed your sweet image?

Troy Montero. Shake off the American twang. You've been in Manila for quite some time now so there's no longer any excuse for not speaking Tagalog lines well. With your drop-dead gorgeous looks, more movie offers should be coming your way. The thing is, you can only do so many *balikbayan* roles. Who wants to watch a rehash of the same theme over and over again?

John Estrada. Cut the indifferent attitude about your affair with **Vanessa del Bianco.** It's neither cute nor funny. You can't fool the people for too long. Own up to your indiscretion and maybe you can still save whatever dignity you may have left.

Live bands. I guess there's no one who didn't fall in love with Freestyle's hit "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang ?" In fact, it was my personal mantra for several months. But I think live bands should give the song a rest. Time to give way to new hits. Why sound like a broken pirated CD?

Jolina Magdangal. Get out of the "in-between" rut. Your claim to fame was your bohemian style. But now you have apparently outgrown it. Time for some serious reinventing of yourself.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

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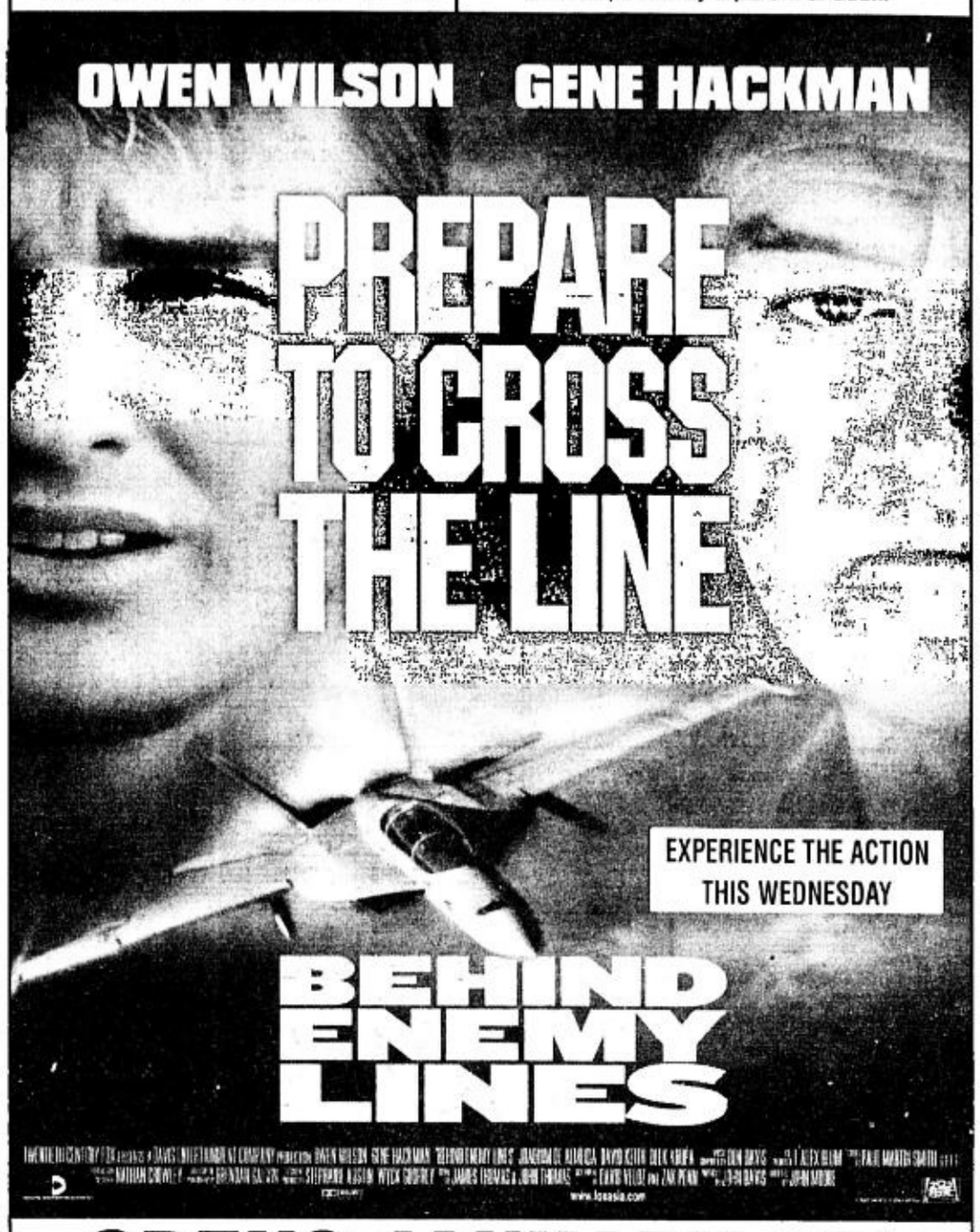

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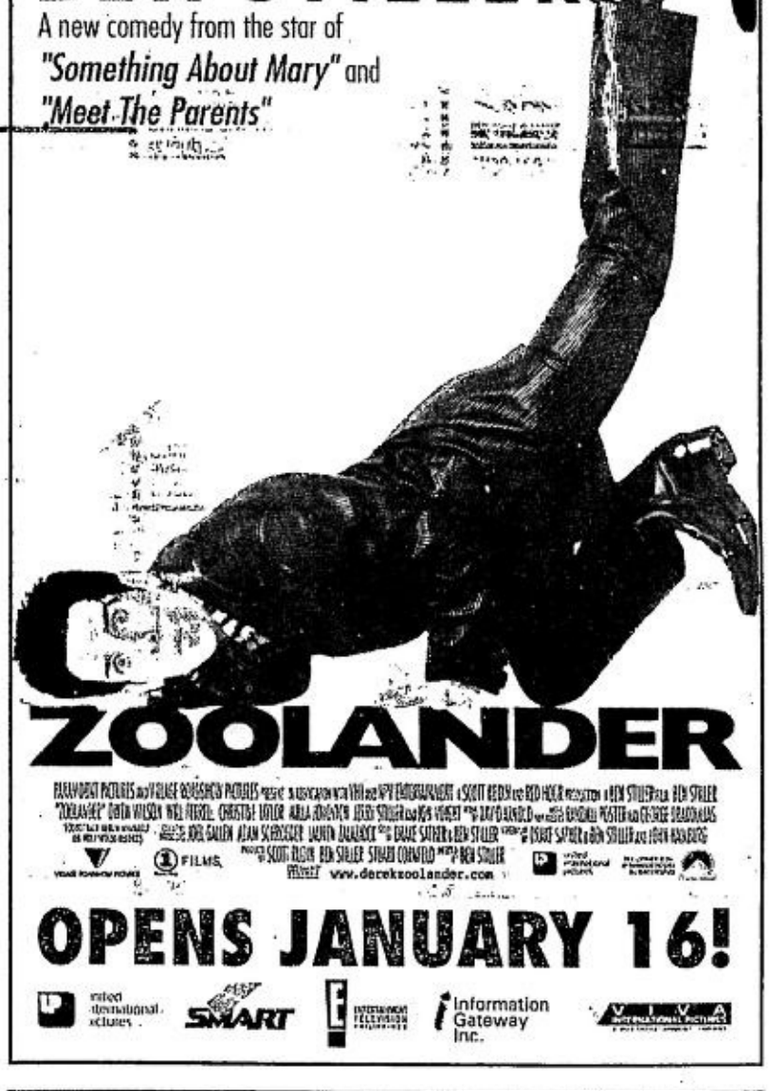

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pyar mirasol
tonton gutierrez paolo rivero and maricar de mesa

lucita soriano nicole noble froilan sales rona reyes joseph baltazar
Story, Screenplay and Direction by URO Q. dela CRUZ
A PRESENTATION

Move over... The Hunks
Ang Bagong King
to the Bones
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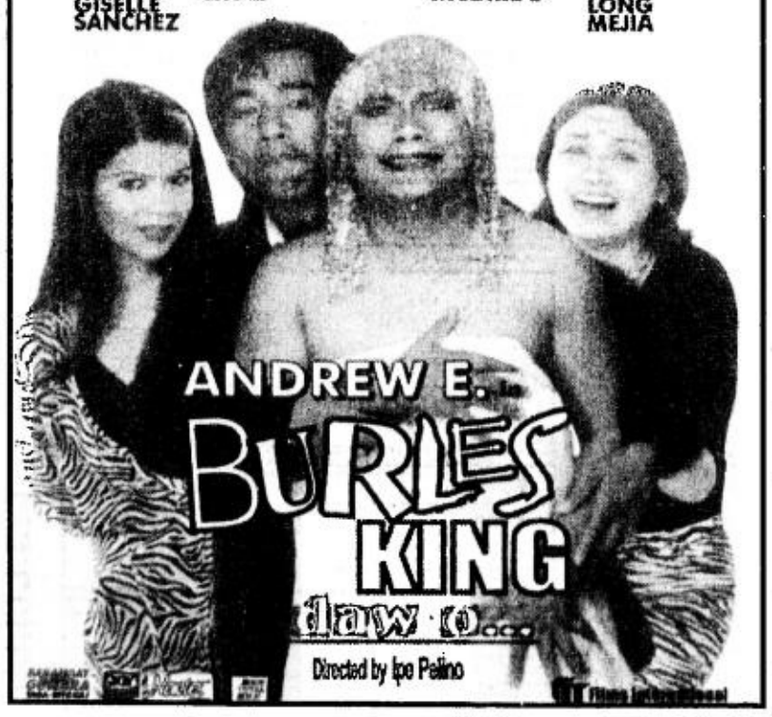
GISELLE SANCHEZ GENEVA CRUZ JANETTE MCBRIDE LONG MEJIA



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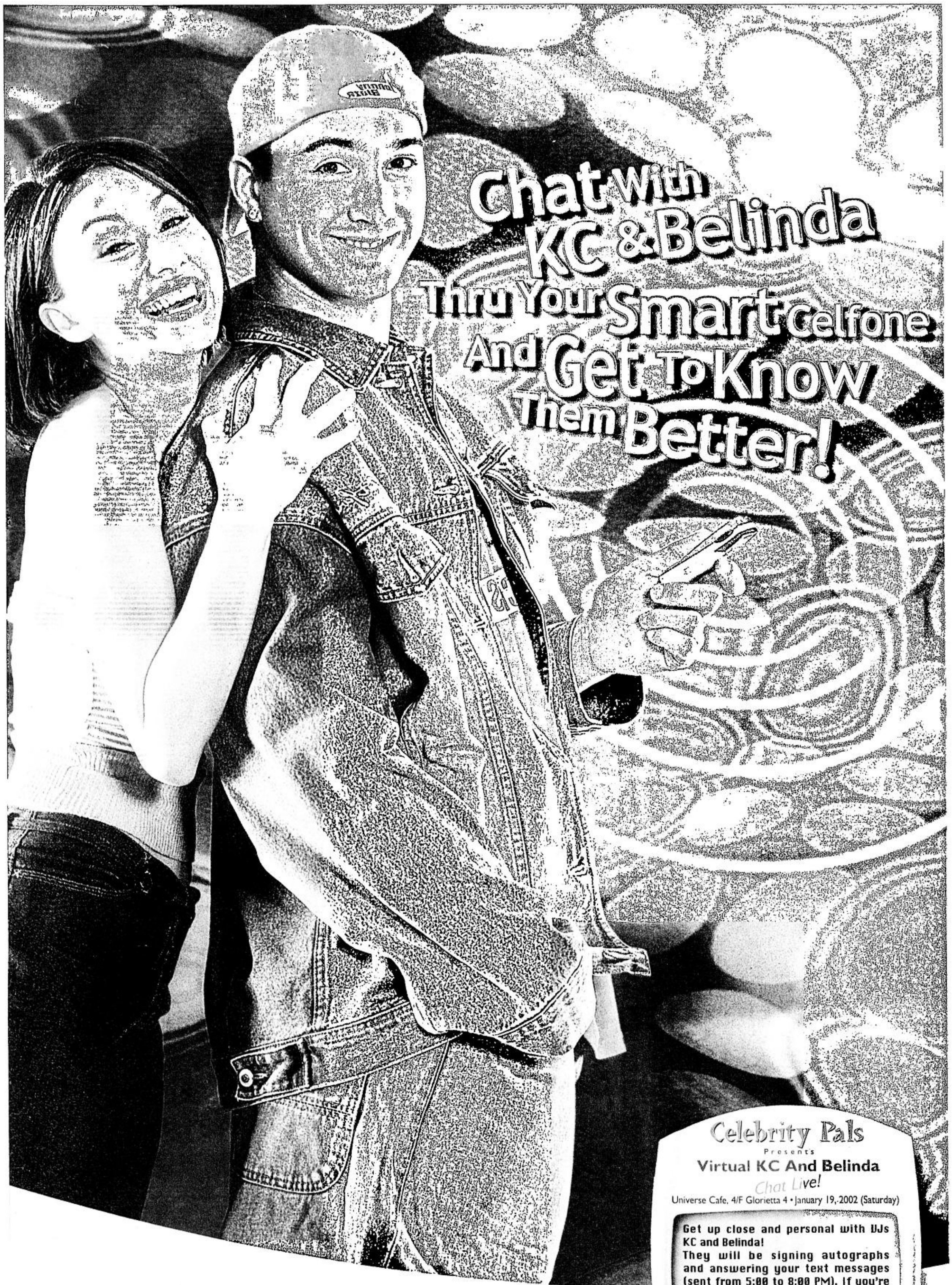

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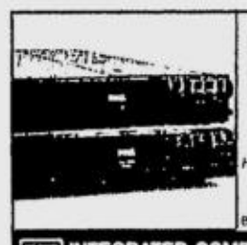
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T-bill rates hit new lows

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT'S cost of borrowing as reflected by the yields of treasury bill fell to a new 15-year low in yesterday's auction on market expectations that the central bank would cut its overnight rates and the reserve requirement on banks very soon.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said a lack of investment outlets coupled by the anticipation that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would ease its monetary policies anew this week pushed the benchmark 91-day rate to a fresh 15-year low while the yield of the one-year treasury joined the two other tenors at single-digit levels.

The 91-day treasury bill rate went down by 15.6 basis points to 8.141 percent while the yield of the longer-dated treasuries slid by 53.5 points to 8.657 percent for the six-month notes and by 66.4 points to 9.147 percent for the 364-day papers, their lowest since the third quarter of 1999.

On July 5, 1999, the 182-day rate had averaged at 8.657 percent while on Sept. 13, 1999, the one-year treasury yield dropped to 9.146 percent. The benchmark 91-day rate still failed to beat the Jan. 23, 1987 level of 7.892 percent.

Edeza said the historic low of the benchmark rate was 6.9 percent set in February 1987.

Almost P16 billion in tenders chased only P4 billion worth of government securities auctioned yesterday with bids concentrating on the longer-dated debt notes.

Edeza said he believed the fixed-income market could accommodate some more decline in treasury bill rates next week whether or not the BSP would cut its overnight rates and the bank reserve requirement on Thursday.

It helped that the government has close to P50 billion in free cash, Edeza said. This means that the treasury could afford to reject unreasonable offers because it has sufficient cash to finance the government's requirements.

"I think the 91-day rate could fall below the 8-percent level even without a BSP rate cut. After that, we would see some corrections already," he said.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the advisory committee that he chairs would meet today to evaluate whether or not to recommend to the Monetary Board on Thursday a cut in the policy rates as well as in the bank reserve requirement.

"We will talk about the changes but whether or not the Board would buy our recommendation would be another story. If the Board decides not to cut rates and the reserve (requirement) this week, it would take another month before the policy decision would be made," the BSP chief pointed out.

Buenaventura said the creation of the advisory committee was one of the changes as the central bank moves to adopt inflation-targeting, a policy that would ensure that the BSP would focus on medium-term inflation as basis for its decision rather than the day-to-day fluctuations in the financial markets.

The advisory committee meets once a month to discuss important monetary policy recommendations to the Monetary Board.

A trader from a foreign bank said the market was expecting the BSP to cut its overnight rates this week by a quarter-of-a-percentage point and the bank reserve requirement by two percentage points to 16 percent.

Edeza said the government's liquidity would be boosted anew this Friday, Jan. 18, when it receives the proceeds of a $750-million global bond issue. It would add to the $505 million in foreign funds raised last December to finance this year's requirements.

Since the treasury is awash with cash, Edeza said the government might suspend the issuance of one-year treasury bills in February and March to save on costs and interest expense.

The plan is to resume the auction of 364-day debt notes in April but only once every two weeks. He said the Treasury would do the same for the 182-day notes by the third quarter.

"The plan to change the frequency of the T-bill auction is to increase the liquidity in the market, to have an easier and cheaper administration and a better cash management," he explained.

He said the plan on the new auction schedules for the year would be finalized within the week.

Edeza explained that it was not prudent to have so much free cash because the treasury normally places these in the central bank's vaults and only earn an interest of 5 percent, much lower than the prevailing market rates.

Gov't vows to boost spending next year

THE MACAPAGAL administration has vowed to pump prime the economy next year as it agreed to look for more sources of revenue that would finance a more aggressive spending program specially for vital infrastructure projects.

During the first meeting of the Development Budget Coordination Committee yesterday, the members of the economic team promised to pursue a more aggressive expenditure program in 2003 when the domestic economy should have recovered from the backlash of weak global demand.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said the DBCC had agreed to firm up additional spending items to ensure that commitments made by President Macapagal-Arroyo during her first State of the Nation address as well as the targets set during the economic summit held in December would be met.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and representatives of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Bureau of Treasury, and the finance department attended the DBCC meeting yesterday.

"We would like to see a strengthening of economic growth next year, and the government's spending program is a vital part of public investments," Canlas said.

In particular, he cited the projects that would modernize the agriculture and the fisheries sectors, the rapid mass transit system in Metro Manila and the rehabilitation of the national railways as among the big-ticket items that the government must support to help spur economic growth.

The DBCC had set an economic growth target of 5.4 to 5.9 percent for gross domestic product and a budget deficit of P98.4 billion for 2003.

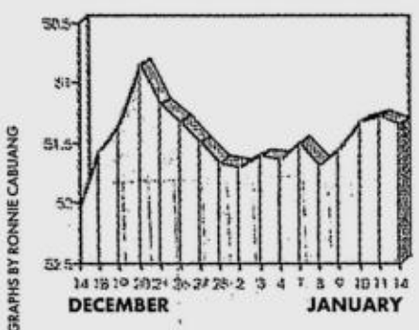
Canlas said the inter-agency team has formed a task force that would find additional sources of revenue, identify the important expenditure items and balance the need for more funds with more earnings so as not to breach a bud-

GOV'T /B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱51.345 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 14, 2002

¥132.36 = $1

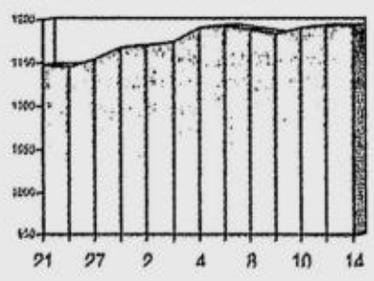
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 11, 2002

GOLD:$285.90/286.40

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 14, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares end mixed

SHARES closed mixed yesterday, with the main index ending higher on steady demand for property stocks due to brighter prospects for the sector, traders said.

Aside from softening domestic interest rates, property stocks got a boost yesterday on news Lehman Brothers and the government agreed to set up of a $1-billion fund that will be invested in housing projects, among others.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed 1.13 points higher, or 0.1 percent, to 1192.73 after advancing 2.12 points Friday to 1191.60.

Losers beat gainers 28 to 19, with 31 issues unchanged.

Volume rose slightly to 212 million shares but value sank to P271 million compared with 196 million shares worth P470 million traded on Friday.

"There's a lack of any information to boost the market, and coming from a major rally, we're very sensitive to profit-taking," said Enrique Santa Ana of DBS Vickers Securities.

"This shows that the market is trading tentatively," said Lawrence de Leon of KGI Securities.

"Investors aren't really keen on pushing the index above the 1,200 level, and at the same time we're seeing some profit-taking on issues that went up significantly last week." *AP, AFP*

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GTEB adopts new export quota allocation system

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE GARMENTS and Textile Export Board (GTEB) will use the Philippines' yearly increase in quota exports to the United States as an incentive to encourage local apparel makers to enhance their operations.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the annual increments in the country's quota would be allocated only to garments exporters who have either increased their capacity or diversified into higher value-added categories.

Normally, the US export quota granted to the Philippines is distributed to all registered garments exporters based on a fixed allocation system regardless of their performance in the previous year.

Garments and textile exports fell by 7 percent to $2.974 billion last year from $3.2 billion in 2000. Roughly 70 percent of the garments and textile exports are shipped to the United States.

The new quota allocation system is part of the sweeping reforms being implemented by the GTEB to prepare the industry for the abolition of the quota system in 2005. The United States will be an open market in 2005 when Washington lifts all restrictions that limit the shipment of garments to the world's biggest market.

Roxas said the proposed reforms would be made top-to-bottom as he vowed to review all existing policies, including the removal or lowering of processing fees.

Also, Roxas has urged the local apparel and fabric industry to merge and consolidate its operations in preparation for the phase-out of the quota system in 2005.

Roxas said most foreign buyers prefer to deal with suppliers that could provide a wide range of products and services based on superior price-value ratios, consistent quality, flexible quantity and speed-to-market capabilities. There are currently 1,200 factories employing 400,000 workers in the $3-billion garments and textile industry.

Roxas has asked players in the garments and textile industry to contribute their inputs to the proposed industry transition plan that the GTEB hopes to finish by the end of this month. Roxas said garments exporters should not be complacent because "the end of the quota regime is a deep and wide precipice that must be hurdled in an organized and strategic manner."

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Win scam, lose scam

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TODAY, if its acting head remains true to her word, the SEC is set to reissue a cease-and-desist order to the generous kind bighearted Multitel.

Now a CDO from the Securities and Exchange Commission, as they say in business, is similar to castration. You can still do it, but why bother?

Multitel's full name, anyway, is Multinational Telecom Investors Corp. It is not a telecom firm. It is a "lending investor"—whatever in the world that is.

So SEC Commissioner Fe Eloisa Gloria, the acting head, promised me last week the commission would reissue the order during the ex-com meeting today.

Reports reached the SEC that Multitel was soliciting "investments" from the public. Again! Well, I should know. I myself told Gloria herself about it.

I am not kidding. Somebody really tried to get money from me. I even got the phone number of a VIP who would do me the big favor of getting rid of my money.

If I would be, ahh, stupid enough to give Multitel my money on or before today, Jan.15, I would get an interest of 5 percent a month. Luckily, I don't have money.

* * *

IT was a tempting offer. Ordinarily, you see, Multitel would only pay an interest of 4 percent a month. Even with this rate, it already lured a lot of people, for on a compounded basis, an interest of 4 percent a month is actually more than 60 percent a year already. Where can you find such a rate, right?

And more so with 5 percent a month! Perhaps, Multitel regarded me as especially stupid. I could even get an interest of close to 80 percent a year.

Believe me, no investment in this world, and in this lifetime, can ever earn that much interest. Immediately Multitel's investment scheme should be suspect.

So I checked with Gloria, whom I knew, based on my long years of covering the SEC, as a straight-shooting government official. You know—something rare!

Earlier, as it turned out, the SEC already ordered Multitel to stop soliciting investments from the public. The order, Gloria told me, has been lifted. Whaaat?

* * *

NOBODY knows if the SEC adopted a win-some-lose-some policy in running after violators of its rules. If you err, you get it from the SEC. No gray area here, Kuya.

For what in heaven's name did Multitel do to merit such a kindness from the SEC? Well, Multitel promised the SEC that it would sin no more. Just like that!

In other words, the SEC itself knew that Multitel was merely fooling the public all along. It's just that Multitel promised to reform itself. And the SEC believed it.

From what I gathered, however, SEC lifted the cease-and-desist order, because Multitel found a way to go around some SEC rules.

Then again, why would anybody want to go around any rule, if he, she, it or they were not doing anything wrong, in the first place, like a pyramid scheme?

Look, Multitel does not even have any visible business here. Its materials claimed it sends the money abroad. It supposedly had a tie-up with a US company.

Now, as a poor country, by definition, we lack capital. Thus interest rates are high. Companies in the United States do not raise money here, normally.

I don't even know if Multitel has permission from the Bangko Sentral to bring out a lot of money. Paging, the Anti-money Laundering Council!

* * *

ME, personally, I find it hard to believe that, in this day and age, there are still people who can fall for the world's oldest trick—the lure of high returns on investments.

Image is part of the trick. Multitel even has a prestige address at the high-end Enterprise Center in the financial district of Makati, based on its press releases.

In its own press releases, Multitel also claimed, as of March last year, it had some P11 billion in total placements. Again, the amount should earn 4 percent a month!

What in the world does Multitel do with the money, and it can earn more than P6 billion a year, just to pay for the interest on all those placements?

And yet—YET—when I tried to ask for its financial statements, none of the Multitel "agents" or "solicitors" or whatever you call the mothers, could produce any.

Even the SEC could not furnish me a copy of Multitel's financial statements. I thought the financial statements should tell a wonderful story about Multitel.

The secret financial books of Multitel, if they even exist, can say who wins and who loses in this obvious scam. In the end, they all blame—who else—the SEC.

* * *

ADRIAN Harley, country manager here of the Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific, wrote me: "Contrary to what you said in your column, Cathay Pacific has received no favorable government treatment in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 incident.

"In fact, Cathay Pacific is one of the very few airlines in the world who bought additional insurance rather than relying on government guarantees.

"That deal has been made possible through the hard work of our staff, our brokers and the strong reputation of the airline."

Alright, I remember that the Hong Kong government announced a plan to help Cathay Pacific pay for high insurance premium.

It seems the plan did not push through. As Harley said, Cathay Pacific did not avail itself of the government guarantee.

In that column, nevertheless, I said that a lot of foreign airlines got help from their governments, after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington last year.

Yet, instead of this cute administration doing the same for our flag carrier Philippine Airlines, Communications and Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez even puts down PAL.

He worked for the Korean airlines to steal a big portion of PAL's traditional biggest business—the Christmas *balikbayan* rush. Singlehandedly!

Gov't urged to help save airline sector from crisis

LEADERS of major business groups in the country and representatives of the labor sector have called for government intervention to rescue the desperate local airline industry from a prolonged crisis.

In a meeting under the umbrella of the "Buy Pinoy Movement" last Friday, the captains of industry and labor warned that the collapse of the aviation industry would seriously impair the country's economic health.

"Governments all over the world are bailing out their carriers. We must urgently look at ways to help our local airlines," Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said during the forum.

"We cannot afford not to have healthy air carriers. We need strong flag carriers (to ensure our economic survival)."

Alexander Barrientos, president of the Philippine Airlines Employees Association, the largest union in the aviation sector, urged the government to save the jobs of over 15,000 workers in the industry by restricting the grant of air rights to foreign carriers on routes that are already well-served by local airlines.

Aviation industry players circulated a manifesto during the forum enumerating a list of measures needed to ensure the sector's survival. The campaign, under the slogan "Fly Filipino, Fly the Flag," complements the broader thrust of the Buy Pinoy Movement, whose battlecry is "Buy Pinoy, Save Jobs."

The movement was formed last Dec. 11 in response to the deepening economic crisis triggered by the rush to globalization, which has resulted in the loss of thousands of jobs across the economy.

In a joint statement issued at the Friday forum, the movement noted that Filipino workers in the tourism industry, particularly in the airline and hotel sectors, were in danger of losing their jobs if the present trends continue.

Barrientos said the local airline industry was now at a crossroads since the Sept. 11 terror attacks knocked carriers worldwide into a tailspin that has yet to abate.

He appealed to Filipino passengers to patronize local carriers as a patriotic duty. "The citizenry's patronage of the services of Filipino airline companies is crucial to the survival of our industry. In the end, we all benefit from a viable airline sector."

BAD DEBT WOES

Banks start campaign to promote arbitration

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE BANKING industry is spearheading a drive to promote arbitration as a way of resolving cases involving loan defaults and other related disputes to prevent the accumulation of bad debts and pave the way for the speedy recovery of the banks' exposure.

In an interview, Bankers Association of the Philippines executive director Leonilo Coronel said that the influential association of the country's 43 commercial banks would work on getting new borrowers to resort to arbitration, rather than turning to the courts, to settle loan disputes.

The banking sector took the lead in this campaign as its accumulated bad loans started weighing heavily on its finances and performance. The sector is saddled with more than P300 billion in bad debts, about half of which is entangled in various legal cases.

Coronel said the BAP has been preparing an 'arrangement' that would, in effect, get borrowers into committing to resort to arbitration first before going to the courts in case of disputes. He said this would be provided in the loan documents to be signed by the borrowers.

He said member-banks of the BAP were also planning to use arbitration as a way of resolving disputes involving other bank products such as derivatives.

At present, banks settle some issues among themselves through arbitration, such as check clearing disputes.

Officials of some of the country's biggest banks complained that legal cases have hindered banks' efforts to foreclose on loan collateral. This problem dampens the value that the banks can recover from the assets backing the soured loans.

Reeling from the impact of the Asian financial crisis, some of the country's biggest borrowers have encountered difficulties in servicing their loans. Some of them have turned to the Securities and Exchange Commission while the others to the courts to stop creditors from getting their hands on their collateral and other assets.

Early this month, leading domestic automotive battery maker Ramcar Inc. and its sister firms have secured a court order preventing creditor-banks from getting their hands on the security backing the group's P8 billion in obligations.

Probably one of the oldest cases of this kind is that of Victoria's Milling Co., whose petition for rehabilitation and debt relief has been pending with the SEC in the past four years.

DOTC vows 3,000 jobs

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications said it would provide at least 3,000 new jobs this year through its various infrastructure projects and the opening of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal by the end of the year.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said in a statement yesterday that a number of DOTC projects could "help boost employment for the masses."

These projects include the Light Rail Transit line 1 and the Edsa Metro Rail Transit-3 extension projects as well as the North Harbor modernization project.

The LRT-1 project will extend the existing Monumento-to-Baclaran railway to Cavite. The MRT-3 Project will extend the North Avenue-to-Taft-Avenue line up to Monumento.

The National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordination Committee last December gave the LRT line 1 contractor, SNC-Lavalin International, the go ahead to implement the railway extension project.

The Edsa MRT-3 project is still waiting for the Neda-ICC approval. However, Alvarez said the project was expected to get the clearance within the month.

Another expected job generator is the Naia Terminal 3, Alvarez said.

PNOC unit settles $150M in eurobond obligations

STATE-OWNED PNOC Energy Development Corp. has paid in full its $150 million worth of eurobond obligations that fell due last month.

A source from the geothermal arm of Philippine National Oil Co. yesterday said the bulk of the amount used to pay the obligations came from refinancing packages from Japan and the United States. About $10 million came from PNOC-EDC's own funds.

Last November, PNOC-EDC sealed a $30-million loan package that was arranged by the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. Before that, the company secured a $110-million package from JP Morgan Chase.

Both loans are maturing in five years. They were guaranteed by the national government.

The eurobond package was issued in 1996. The proceeds of the issue were used to finance the 40-megawatt Mindanao 2 geothermal plant in the vicinity of Mt. Apo and the geothermal exploration activities in Mt. Labo, Camarines Sur, and in Negros.

Morgan Stanley led the consortium of local and international banks that arranged the bond issue.

In other developments, PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Aspostol said last week that the firm needed to borrow $500 million this year to finance its various geothermal development projects.

"Some European banks and a Lebanese group have expressed interest in working with us on this," Apostol said.

PNOC-EDC's exploration activities include prospects in Mt. Lobi in Leyte, Mt. Cabalian in Southern Leyte and Rangas Tanawon in Sorsogon.

He explained that the steamfield in Mt. Lobi could be as big as the one in Tongonan (also in Leyte) where PNOC-EDC operates a power plant complex.

In the Tongonan field, the state-firm operates power plants with total installed capacity of about 600 megawatts.

The geothermal potential of the Mt. Cabalian prospect is placed at 110 mw while that of Rangas Tanawon is 20 mw. ***Ronnel W. Domingo***

COUNTRY SHARES

As of January 15, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.45M/1.5M	1,500,000/1,600,000*
BAGUIO COUNTRY	700,000	750,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	250,000	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	750,000
CAPITOL HILLS	-	120,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	620,000**	350,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERGREST A/B*	135,000*	100,000/150,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	180,000	230,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Please call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	280,000	300,000/350,000*
MANILA GOLF CLUB CORP.	- -	13,000,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,600,000	2,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	600,000	680,000
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	125,000/145,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	-	180,000/375,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C**/B*	600,000**	625,000**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000/400,000**	230,000/425,000**
PUERTO AZUL A	-	135,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	-	220,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	200,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	550,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	110,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	230,000/350,000*/450,000**
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Dodge Durango 4x4	2.7M	675,000		675,000		675,000		675,000
Grand Voyager	1.7M	425,000		425,000		425,000		425,000

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Chrysler Cebu: A.S. Fortuna St., Mandaue City TEL: (032) 345-6919 to 20 FAX: (032) 345-6910
Chrysler Ilo-ilo: Mc Arthur Highway, Tabuc-Suba Jaro, Ilo-ilo City TEL: (033) 329-7793 ; (033) 329-7794
Chrysler Davao: BM Sterling Motor Corp. Km. 7 Lanang, Davao City TEL: (082) 300-2501 FAX: (082) 234-1031
Chrysler Bacolod: c/o TRANSCOR MOTOR CORP. Araneta St., Singcang, Bacolod City TEL: (034) 435-0222 to 24 FAX: (034) 433-0330
Chrysler Tarlac: National Road, Paniqui, Tarlac
PRIMUS Finance and Leasing, Inc.
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WARNING!

Ignoring These Signs Can Be Hazardous To Your Hair!
If you see more hair strands in places other than your head, don't ignore it! You may be suffering from excessive hair loss which can lead to baldness. End your hair-loss problem now at **Svenson International.**
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ALABANG Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd. 842-1389 842-4181
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P650-M DEBT

MRC Allied pushes debt-asset swap

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY developer MRC Allied Industries plans to give up some properties in its flagship township projects in order to wipe out about P650 million worth of debts.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, MRC Allied chair Benjamin Bitanga said the company continued to incur losses due to the slump in the real estate sector.

But the company said it has continued efforts to reduce debt and has so far paid 10 percent of its outstanding bank loans through asset swaps or *dacion en pago* arrangements.

"The company's management is continuously negotiating with its creditor-banks to liquidate all of its outstanding obligations by offering available properties both at the New Cebu Township One and the Amihan Woodland Township through (swap arrangements)," the disclosure said.

These two township communities, located in Cebu and Leyte respectively, are the main assets of MRC Allied.

Bitanga said the company was now sub-dividing some of its lots into one-hectare cuts to accommodate small types of industries.

"As part of its marketing efforts, management continues to communicate with prospective investors, particularly the small and medium-sized," Bitanga said.

"However, prospective foreign locators are hesitant to invest in the real estate business because of the unstable economic and political atmosphere," he said.

From January to September last year, MRC Allied incurred losses of P59 million, up from the P47 million in losses in the same period in 2000.

Formerly Makilala Rubber Corp., MRC Allied is principally engaged in real estate development. However, the company has reduced its property development activities. .

It has long been negotiating with creditor-banks to restructure its loans but has not been successful in reaching any agreement. Some banks have considered allowing the company to make partial payments only on interest falling due. As such, it has been forced to resort to *dacion en pago* deals.

MRC Allied has also diversified into selling filling materials and plans to divest its other saleable assets. The company said this would raise enough funds to cover its present working capital requirements.

The company is also searching for alternative profitable ventures, particularly in e-commerce businesses.

PSE chief backs 20% equity cap

PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange president Ernest Leung said he would not oppose the 20-percent industry ownership ceiling prescribed by the new securities law to complete the demutualization of the local bourse.

Leung told reporters that there were a lot of amendments to the Securities Regulation Code that he would support, but that a repeal of the 20-percent industry limit was not one of them.

"Over the long term, the PSE would benefit from this reform because if you have a scenario where it is difficult to attract investors because of mistrust, then the brokers will have to accept dilution," Leung said.

He noted that better investor confidence would translate to more business opportunities for the stock brokerage industry.

Under the SRC, no single industry, including the brokerage sector, should be allowed to own more than 20 percent of the demutualized PSE. A lot of brokers have been complaining against this provision, noting it was in conflict with another provision which allowed brokers to control up to 49 percent of the PSE's 15-member board of directors.

Leung said that the dilution would send positive signals on the PSE's commitment to reforms. But he also said there must be a way to cushion any adverse impact on existing member-brokers.

He said the PSE would consider ways on how to stagger the implementation of the ownership reduction, which is a key ingredient toward full demutualization.

In August last year, the PSE started its conversion from a non-stock into a stock corporation. But the demutualization is not complete as the broker-members still own 100 percent of the shares and will continue to do so unless the PSE lets new investors come in through an initial public offering or a private placement.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, for its part, has said it could not force the PSE to go public while market conditions were weak. However, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista had said that she favored the entry of new investors through a private placement prior to any IPO, which could be scheduled at a later date.

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF JANUARY 14, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000	1,400,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,600,000	1,500,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	125,000	115,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	190,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	350,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	200,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	375,000	340,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	210,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		280,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000	
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,000,000	12,000,00
20. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	700,000	650,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	700,000
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	140,000	
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	330,000
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	300,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	370,000	
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	190,000
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	230,000
32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,600,000	
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	800,000	750,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	750,000	600,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	180,000	170,000
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	240,000	
38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		6,500,000

ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYING RIGHTS PLS. CALL

JUST S. VIRAY, TRADING MANAGER — PAUL CORTEZ, PRESIDENT
LALA SALAO / LYDIA HASEGAWA / FINAS VIRAY
TEL. NOS. 8175655 / 8121066 / 8193560
7517982 CP#0917-8114892

G&W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-17597
As of January 14, 2002

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	-	1,450,000
Alabang Country Club "B"	-	-
Baguio Country Club	750,000	-
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	130,000	-
Calatagan Golf	90,000	-
Canyon Woods	230,000	190,000
Canlubang	650,000	-
Celebrity Sports	230,000	170,000
Eagleridge "A"	330,000	300,000
Eastridge	200,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana "D/C"	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills "A"	230,000	210,000
Manila Polo	-	2,600,000
Manila Golf	-	11,000,000
Makati Sports Club	350,000	-
Manila Southwoods "A"	650,000	600,000
Mimosa Golf	165,000	-
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard	230,000	190,000
Orchard "B"	-	250,000
Phil. Columbian	70,000	-
Punta Fuego	650,000	-
Puerto Azul	170,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	240,000	-
Riviera Golf	195,000	190,000
Rockwell	450,000	-
Royale Tagaytay	140,000	Pls. Call
Sherwoods	120,000	-
Subic Bay Yatch Club "Corp"	400,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	330,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	750,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	650,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	175,000	160,000
Wack-Wack Golf	-	6,450,000

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TL 6836309/Tel. No. 6359918/6359830/(0919)7041848
Mon. - Fri., 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Sat., 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Unit 1402 Medical Plaza Ortigas San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
319 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Ext., Makati City
Tel. Nos. 840-30-78; 843-78-31; 818-94-11 to 29

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of December 14, 2001

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items		P 4,127,481,673
Due from Bangko Sentral		14,589,493,520
Due from Other Banks		1,933,398,561
Interbank Loans Receivable		10,770,174,291
Trading Account Securities (Net)		169,639,052
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		68,328,116,663
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		97,472,621,437
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		114,589,541
Equity Investments (Net)		6,087,581,865
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		4,128,556,757
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired	10,885,777,491	
Others	8,581,088,467	
TOTAL ASSETS		P 227,188,519,318
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits		P 65,328,146,090
Savings Deposits		74,650,536,735
Time Deposits		24,498,730,767
Special/Other Deposits		468,691,851
Due to Bangko Sentral		85,083,809
Due to Banks		294,992,423
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		2,525,447,926
Bills Payable:		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	1,176,252,421	
Deposits Substitutes	269,642,626	
Others	23,935,657,024	
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		2,890,850,547
Other Liabilities		12,748,635,402
TOTAL LIABILITIES		P 208,870,667,623
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock		P 9,200,000,000
Surplus		6,032,219,650
Surplus Reserves		3,137,502,390
Other Capital Accounts		(51,870,345)
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		18,317,851,695
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		P 227,188,519,318
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		P 5,492,054,148
Bills for Collection		679,463,778
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		6,000,637,405
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		(338,528,975)
Assets Held under Trust and Management Investment Agreements		11,183,833,632
Invested in:		
- Government Securities		6,025,379,615
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		1,165,582,605
- Loans and Discounts		1,169,822,631
- Other Assets		2,823,048,781
Accountabilities:		
- Trust and Other Fiduciary		1,297,122,527
- Common Trust Funds		1,357,164,540
- Investment/Fund Management		8,529,546,565
Other Contingent Accounts		32,956,102,515
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		P 55,973,562,501

Other Information

1. Deposits of:	
a. Government	P 103,585,033,696
b. Banks	10,621,132,236
c. Trust Department	128,801,976
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	
a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)	236.68%
b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)	226.01%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans	31,029,007,915
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio	25.14%
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	42,617,794,606
6. General Provision for Loan Losses	1,392,806,354
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses	13,606,607,359
8. Return on Equity (ROE)	8.47%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances	1,635,086,658
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio	1.32%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances	276,403,910
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio	0.22%

We, CORAZON S. DE LOS SANTOS and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. CORAZON S. DE LOS SANTOS, Acting Head-Operations Sector, Concurrent Head-Controllership Group
Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES, President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 10th day of January, 2002 in Makati City, affiants exhibiting to me their Res. Certificate No. 06885342, issued in Mandaluyong City on February 2, 2001 and Res. Certificate No. 09373584 issued in Manila on March 2, 2001.

CHRISA SHEILA I. PIMENTEL
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2001
PTR No. 2522497
Issued on March 29, 2001
Makati City

Doc. No. 271
Page No. 57
Book No. I
Series of 2002

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of December 14, 2001

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items		P 4,137,566,050
Due from Bangko Sentral		14,589,493,520
Due from Other Banks		2,027,978,476
Interbank Loans Receivable		10,770,174,291
Trading Account Securities (Net)		169,639,052
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		68,406,715,685
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		97,312,646,422
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		114,589,541
Equity Investments (Net)		5,454,554,810
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		4,260,383,609
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired	10,905,043,020	
Others	9,681,572,024	
TOTAL ASSETS		P 227,832,376,500
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits		P 65,312,668,205
Savings Deposits		74,641,057,650
Time Deposits		24,498,730,767
Special/Other Deposits		468,691,851
Due to Bangko Sentral		85,083,809
Due to Banks		294,992,423
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		2,534,074,097
Bills Payable:		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	1,176,252,421	
Deposits Substitutes	269,642,626	
Others	23,935,657,024	
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		3,531,523,797
Other Liabilities		12,765,435,546
TOTAL LIABILITIES		P 209,513,810,216
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock		P 9,200,000,000
Surplus		6,032,910,920
Surplus Reserves		3,137,525,709
Other Capital Accounts		(51,870,345)
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		18,318,566,284
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		P 227,832,376,500
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		P 5,492,054,148
Bills for Collection		679,463,778
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		6,000,637,405
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		(338,528,975)
Assets Held under Trust and Management Investment Agreements		11,183,833,632
Invested in:		
- Government Securities		6,025,379,615
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		1,165,582,605
- Loans and Discounts		1,169,822,631
- Other Assets		2,823,048,781
Accountabilities:		
- Trust and Other Fiduciary		1,297,122,527
- Common Trust Funds		1,357,164,540
- Investment/Fund Management		8,529,546,565
Other Contingent Accounts		32,956,102,515
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		P 55,973,562,501

Other Information

1. Deposits of:	
a. Government	P 103,585,033,696
b. Banks	10,621,132,236
c. Trust Department	128,801,976
2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries	
a. LBP Leasing Corporation	
b. LBP Financial Services, SPA	
c. LBP Remittance Co., USA	

We, CORAZON S. DE LOS SANTOS and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

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Page No. 57
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Series of 2002

Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (Deposits Insured up to P100,000.00)

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, January 14, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS&FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
BANK OF THE PHIL. ISLANDS	58.00	58	58	58	516,100
CHINA BANKING CORP.	560.0	560	560	560	2,110
CITYSTATE SAVINGS BANK	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,000
EQUITABLE PCI BANK INC.	24.50	24.5	24.5	24.5	93,200
METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST	197.0	197	194	196	23,110
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK	64.00	64	64	64	5,700
RIZAL COMM. BANKING CORP.	16.00	16	14	14	31,400
UNION BANK OF THE PHIL.	15.50	15.5	15.5	15.5	7,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
BANKARD INC.	1.30	1.3	1.3	1.3	38,000
MANULIFE FINANCIAL CORP.	1300	1305	1300	1305	3,850
SUN LIFE FINANCIAL SERV.	1030	1030	1030	1030	630
COMMERCIAL&INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORP.	24.00	24	24	24	3,900
GLOBE TELECOM INC.	680.0	685	675	685	22,800
IPEOPLE INC.	.8000	.8	.8	.8	30,000
ISLAND INFO AND TECH INC.	.0240	.024	.024	.024	500,000
LIBERTY TELECOMS HOLDINGS	.3000	.3	.3	.3	40,000
PILTEL	.3100	.31	.31	.31	20,000
PHIL. TELEGRAPH & TEL.	.2000	.2	.2	.2	100,000
PHIL. LONG DIS TEL CO.	432.5	432.5	422.5	427.5	96,110
PHILWEB.COM INC.	.0180	.018	.017	.018	19,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
MANILA ELECTRIC CO. "A"	22.50	22.5	22.5	22.5	4,500
MANILA ELECTRIC CO. "B"	30.50	30.5	30	30	1,521,800
PETRON CORP.	1.56	1.58	1.54	1.56	1,916,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
INT'L CONTAINER TERM'L SV	2.65	2.75	2.65	2.7	4,135,000
NEGROS NAVIGATION CO. INC.	.0700	.07	.07	.07	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
ENGINEERING EQUIP. INC.	.2800	.28	.28	.28	120,000
REPUBLIC GLASS HLDG. CORP.	1.30	1.3	1.28	1.28	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
COSMOS BOTTLING CORP.	5.80	5.9	5.8	5.9	5,000
JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP.	12.50	12.75	12.5	12.5	95,400
LA TONDEÑA DISTILLERS INC.	23.50	23.5	23.5	23.5	500
RFM CORP.	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	33,000
SAN MIGUEL CORP. "A"	44.00	44	44	44	59,100
SAN MIGUEL CORP. "B"	54.00	54	53.5	54	42,100
HOLDING FIRMS					
AYALA CORP.	4.95	5	4.9	4.95	1,071,000
ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.42	526,000
AJO.NET HOLDINGS INC.	.8200	.82	.81	.81	400,000
BENPRES HOLDINGS CORP.	.5600	.56	.55	.55	2,240,000
DMCI HOLDINGS INC.	.1750	.175	.175	.175	200,000
EVER-GOTESCO RESOURCES	.0150	.019	.015	.019	200,000
FILINVEST DEV. CORP.	.8800	.88	.88	.88	190,000
FIRST PHIL HLDGS CORP.	26.00	26.5	26	26	276,800
GUOCO HOLDINGS (PHILS.)	.1550	.165	.15	.165	1,040,000
J.G. SUMMIT HOLDINGS INC.	1.50	1.5	1.5	1.5	4,000
MACROASIA CORP.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	107,000
MEGAWORLD CORP.	.7000	.7	.7	.7	2,060,000
MULTITECH INV. CORP.	.2500	.25	.25	.25	50,000
METRO PACIFIC CORP.	.2900	.29	.28	.28	13,210,000
MUSIC CORP.	.2500	.26	.25	.26	3,770,000
ROXAS HOLDINGS INC.	.8000	.8	.8	.8	10,000
SOLID GROUP INC.	.3300	.34	.33	.34	90,000
TANDUAY HOLDINGS INC.	4.00	4	4	4	10,000
UNIWIDE HOLDINGS INC.	.1600	.16	.16	.16	150,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
FEDERAL CHEMICALS INC.	6.10	6.6	6	6.6	52,000
PRYCE CORP.	.0800	.08	.08	.08	700,000
SPI TECHNOLOGIES INC.	14.00	14	14	14	36,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
BELLE CORP.	.4600	.46	.44	.45	1,450,000
FAIRMONT HOLDINGS INC.	.4700	.47	.47	.47	100,000
LEISURE & RESORTS CORP.	.3700	.37	.37	.37	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN HLDGS. CORP. (PDR)	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	15,800
OMICO CORP.	.0012	.0012	.0012	.0012	20,000,000
PLDT (10% PREF.) SERIES U	10.00	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% PREF) SERIES X	10.00	10	10	10	1,000
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PLDT (10% PREF) SERIES Z	10.00	10	10	10	1,000
PHILWEB.COM. INC.-WARRANTS	.0050	.005	.0048	.005	48,000,000
PROPERTY					
AYALA LAND INC.	5.50	5.6	5.5	5.6	7,654,000
C & P HOMES INC.	.2350	.235	.235	.235	800,000
CYBER BAY CORP.	.3700	.39	.37	.39	8,400,000
EMPIRE EAST LAND INC.	.2300	.23	.23	.23	1,050,000
FILINVEST LAND INC.	1.88	1.94	1.88	1.94	3,710,000
CITY & LAND DEVELOPERS LAND	1.20	1.2	1.2	1.2	400,000
SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC.	6.40	6.5	6.4	6.5	3,769,000
MINING					
ATLAS CONS. MIN & DEV'T.	2.80	2.85	2.7	2.85	90,000
ITOGON-SUYOC MINES "A"	.0210	.021	.021	.021	1,700,000
PHILEX MINING CORP. "A"	.2300	.23	.23	.23	510,000
PHILEX MINING CORP. "B"	.2500	.25	.25	.25	200,000
OIL					
ORIENTAL PET. & MIN. "A"	.0060	.006	.006	.006	30,000,000
ORIENTAL PET. & MIN. "B"	.0060	.006	.006	.006	29,000,000

Disclosures

KEPPEL Philippines Marine bought 920,000 of its own shares at prices ranging from P0.25 to P0.30 per share.

* * *

BELLE Corp. disclosed that the six-month lock-up period of its 2.4 billion conversion shares lapsed last Jan. 11 and could now be traded.

* * *

GUOCO Holdings Philippines Inc., now called **Prime Orion Philippines Inc.**, announced that it would continue to honor certificates bearing the old name while the company is still finalizing its new logo. The new stock trading symbol shall be "ORI."

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. bought 30,000 of its own shares at P2 per share.

* * *

EXPRESS Holdings Inc., wholly owned subsidiary of **JG Summit Holdings Inc.**, acquired 10,000 shares of **Universal Robina Corp.** at P4.40 per share.

* * *

ELECTED officers of **APC Group Inc.** during the company's organizational meeting were Willly Ocier, chair; Evelyn Singson, president and chief executive officer; Vicente Jayme Jr., vice president and chief financial officer; Bernardo Lim, treasurer; Edmundo Tan, corporate secretary and Annie Victoria Aguilar, assistant corporate secretary. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Currencies

Jan. 14, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.120072	1.000000	51.2540
Japan	Yen	0.008476	0.007567	0.3878
United Kingdom	Pound	1.287746	1.149700	58.9267
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144344	0.128870	6.6051
Switzerland	Franc	0.676576	0.604047	30.9598
Canada	Dollar	0.701623	0.626409	32.1060
Singapore	Dollar	0.608338	0.543124	27.8373
Australia	Dollar	0.584283	0.521648	26.7365
Bahrain	Dinar	2.971170	2.652661	135.9595
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299485	0.267380	13.7043
Brunei	Dollar	0.606691	0.541654	27.7619
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000096	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025496	0.022763	1.1667
UAE	Dirham	0.305030	0.272331	13.9581
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000766	0.0393
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.892800	45.7596
Brazil	Real	0.469227	0.416667	21.3559
Denmark	Kroner	0.134534	0.120096	6.1554
India	Rupee	0.023219	0.020704	1.0612
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.295119	0.263227	13.4914
Mexico	New Peso	0.120977	0.108702	5.5714
New Zealand	Dollar	0.478231	0.424268	21.7454
Norway	Kroner	0.125542	0.112293	5.7555
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018737	0.016708	0.8564
South Africa	Rand	0.097688	0.08739	4.4791
Sweden	Kroner	0.109104	0.097409	4.9926
Syria	Pound	0.021946	0.019569	1.0030
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032106	0.028612	1.4665
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001476	0.001314	0.0673

Gov't vows . . .

(From page B1)

get deficit target of P98.4 billion.

The economic planning chief, who also heads the National Economic and Development Authority, said the country was on track in meeting its 3.3-percent GDP growth target last year.

He said the economy grew by nearly 3.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2001 on the back of strong rice harvest as well as livestock and poultry production, a better performance of the services sector, particularly the retail and wholesale trade.

"The leading indicator in the fourth quarter suggested that there was no weakening. The strong dollar remittance was supported by personal disposable income. The household sector continued to post demand," Canlas said.

This year, the Neda chief said the government was counting on the recovery of the US economy to support an expected 4 to 4.5 percent growth in GDP.

Canlas said the recovery in the US should lead to a flat growth in exports compared with a 15-percent contraction in export receipts in 2001.

This year, the government should contain the budget deficit to P130 billion from last year's target of P145 billion.

Maynilad says it won't meet deadline to pay $100-M loans

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. said it would be unable to pay about $100 million worth of bridge loans set to mature next month.

"We are working for another extension with our creditor banks until we obtain the approval of our term loans," Maynilad director for project finance Francis Gilles Puno told the INQUIRER in an interview last week.

Maynilad, a company controlled by the Lopez group of companies, had yet to finalize the release of some $350 million worth of term loans, Puno disclosed.

Maynilad had announced it would no longer tap the services of government financial institutions in securing P3 billion worth of bridge financing to service its maturing debts and operational costs.

"We are no longer pursuing our earlier plans to borrow from GFIs to allow us to focus our energies in closing our term loans because there are still several requirements by our creditors," Puno said.

He disclosed that although Maynilad had been allowed to recover some of its losses through an increase in its rates, its creditors were still awaiting how it would come to terms with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System regarding the issue of rate rebasing as well as its performance targets.

Maynilad's creditors, which included Citibank NA, BNP Paribas, Barclays Capital and Tokai Bank of Japan, were waiting to see whether the company's performance targets would reflect strong cash flows and an ability to service debts.

Puno said Maynilad was hoping to conclude a deal with its creditors by June this year.

The company is set to resume payments for shelved concession fees to the MWSS now amounting to P2.78 billion in June.

Maynilad provides water services in the western zone of Metro Manila and some parts of Muntinlupa, Cavite and Las Piñas.

The MWSS earlier allowed Maynilad to raise its rates by 20 percent to P24.42 per cubic meter.
Christine A. Gaylican

GARSOL Management Innovators Inc. and Clark Development Corp. have signed a memorandum of understanding on a new $300-million flying school. GMII is building the International Flying School in line with the global trend of aviation training and outsourcing. Among those who signed the memorandum were (seated from left): Asian Institute of Management professor Victor Limlingan, GMII president and chief executive Sean Gerard Villoria, CDC president and chief executive Emmanuel Angeles and CDC executive vice president Jose Victor Luciano.

Smart doubles capacity

MOBILE phone giant Smart Communications Inc. has doubled its network capacity to 8 million subscribers and almost tripled its text message handling capability to as many as 240 million messages a day as of end-2001.

This was a result of the company's P21-billion GSM (global system for mobile communications) expansion program last year.

"The year 2001 was not only the year when Smart attained GSM leadership in terms of subscriber numbers. It was also the year when we became the digital network with the largest capacity," Smart president and chief executive Napoleon Nazareno said in a statement yesterday. *Abigail L. Ho*

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Construction Safety & Health for Safety Officer (Accredited by the DOLE-Bureau of Working Conditions)	March 18-22
Materials Engineer's Course (Aligned with DPWH Knowledge and Skills Requirements)	February 1,6,15,22
Rebar Detailing and Cutting List Preparation	March 13-15

Construction Skills Training
(Aligned with TESDA's skills standard requirement)

Heavy Equipment Maintenance - Upgrading Electrical System	March 7-8
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Move to foreclose NSC scored

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE GOVERNMENT'S move to push for the foreclosure of National Steel Corp. is expected to further delay by at least a year the reopening of NSC's factory in Iligan, Mindanao, which has been closed since November 1999.

NSC labor union president Simplicio Villarta Jr. has cast doubts on the Macapagal administration's move to support the banks' takeover of NSC, saying such a move will run counter to the government's announced goal of reopening the steel company as soon as possible.

Villarta said a foreclosure would mean at least a one-year delay because the majority owner, Hottick Investment Ltd.-Renong Bhd., had 12 months to redeem its loans before the banks could take over.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II will fly to Malaysia next week to convince Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd., which has taken over Hottick-Renong's 82.5-percent interest in NSC, to allow the banks to foreclose NSC's P16 billion worth of loans.

The banks have long threatened to foreclose NSC's assets but they balked at the hefty P1.6-billion fee.

Villarta is questioning the government's decision to abandon the ongoing process of finding an interim leaseholder to operate NSC considering "there is a standing and viable offer to rehabilitate and commercially operate the asset."

Cathay Pacific Steel Co., Allengoal Steel Trading and Fabrication Corp., and Voest Alpine of Austria have submitted separate proposals to lease, rehabilitate and operate NSC.

The recent move by Malacañang to go for a foreclosure instead of an interim lease agreement has laid to waste the work of the evaluation committee chaired by Roxas to find a leaseholder for NSC for the immediate reopening of the shuttered steel firm.

Allengoal said the abandonment of the evaluation process was the latest display of the government's bias against the Filipino steel trader, which included the Securities and Exchange Commission's nullification of its deal with Hottick Renong in 2000, conflicting announcements on the evaluation parameters and premature declaration of winners.

Allengoal said NSC should have been opened only 45 days after it was closed had it been allowed to enforce its agreement with Hottick-Renong, but this latest development would keep NSC closed for more than three years.

DBP posts 23% hike in income

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines said Friday its net income grew 23 percent to P1.8 billion last year from the previous year's P1.46 billion.

DBP president Remedios Macalincag said in an interview that DBP was aiming for the same figure this year, given the drop in interest rates.

Macalincag also disclosed that the state-owned bank received this month the proceeds of a $250-million facility from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

The $250 million, the fifth credit facility from JBIC, will assist in the funding requirements of small and medium-size enterprises and large industries in manufacturing, construction and infrastructure, power, utilities, transportation and information technology, she said.

Macalincag earlier disclosed that DBP already had P15 billion worth of projects waiting to be financed by the Jexim 5 program, including cyberparks in the Fort Bonifacio Global City and in Filinvest, Alabang.

The bank has about P44.5 billion in funds this year to support development projects and activities available through its wholesale and retail lending operations.

More than 80 percent of its funds are from multilateral and bilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, JBIC, Asian Development Bank and Kreditanstalt fur Weideraufbau of Germany.

DBP recently got approval to remit to the national government only 25 percent of its total net income plus loan loss provisions in 2000 rather than 50 percent of the amount in order to improve its capital base, which stood at P12.5 billion.

Macalincag said the bank wanted to further increase its capital by remitting lower cash dividends to government in order to boost lending.

"We have a lot of projects and we want to do many things but we can be constrained by capital," Macalincag said.

She explained that DBP had to maintain a good capital-to-risk assets ratio, which was currently at 20 percent or higher than the industry level of 17 percent and substantially above the 10 percent requirement of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Loans account for the bulk of risk assets.

The government bank has one of the lowest past due rates in the industry at 9.65 percent as of August this year.

Watershed projects get funding

THE GOVERNMENT has secured some P4 billion worth of financial commitments for two major watershed projects during the recent visit of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

In a news briefing last week, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said the Japanese government agreed to co-finance the Cagayan de Oro watershed development project and Cagayan Valley river development project.

"These projects will be beneficial for our food production because we could harness the river systems for irrigation and, at the same time, solve the rampant flooding in these areas during the rainy season," Alvarez said.

He said the two projects would be funded through loans from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Alvarez also disclosed that the World Bank would have to restructure two other agriculture- and environment-related projects worth P3.5 billion due to budget constraints and a wide scope.

The World Bank's P2.5-billion community-based and resource management project and the P1-billion conservation of priority protected areas project would undergo major changes to better attain their objectives, he said.

Out of the World Bank's 11 projects aimed at developing the Philippine rural sector, the two projects were found to have either delivered unsatisfactory results or were delayed due to the lack of government counterpart funds, according to the World Bank's recent assessment.

"Assumptions made (about these projects) were proven to be unrealistic. The thrust of the restructuring is basically to reduce the scope and number of subprojects because of fiscal constraints," the World Bank said.

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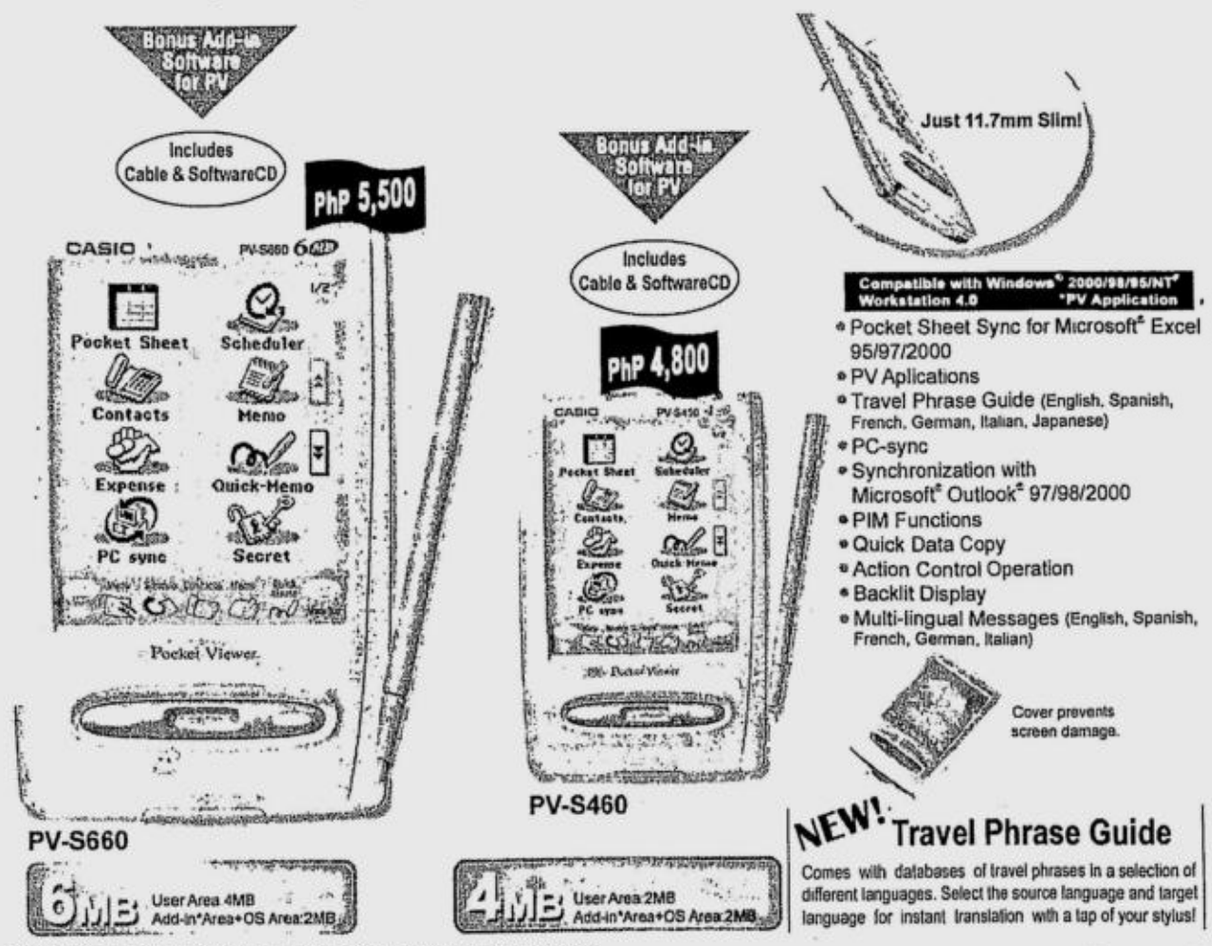

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This application will be considered by the Regional Board on **February 8, 2002, 8:00 a.m.** at Kiwanis Building, Dumaguete City on which date applicant/s shall formally submit his/her evidence.

At least ten (10) days prior on the above date applicant/s shall publish this Notice in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in Cebu/ Visayas and served by registered mail copy of the application and this Notice to all operators affected, as appearing in the attached list.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application, must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date furnishing a copy of the same applicant/s and if they so desire to appear on said date and time.

This application shall be acted upon by the Board on the basis of its record and the documentary evidence submitted by parties unless the Board deem it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the HON. BENITO S. DY-CEZAR, JR., CESO-V. Regional Director, this 21st day of November 2001.

(Sgd.) ATTY. EVELYN CARMELITA G. MISAL
Hearing Officer IV

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOSE DOUGLAS R. SANSON
C.T.D.O.

(PDI – Jan. 15, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF TINAMBAC (Camarines Sur), INC. (RBTI)

1. On January 15, 2002, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) shall resume receiving/processing claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed RB of Tinambac (Camarines Sur), Inc.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from January 15 to 24, 2002, Mondays thru Fridays, during office hours, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   After January 24, 2002, all depositors can file their claims personally or thru mail at the PDIC Office located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Tinambac (Camarines Sur), Inc. is on May 6, 2003. After May 6, 2003, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI -- Jan. 15, 2002)

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Notice is hereby given to the public of the merger between **Siemens, Inc. (SIEMENS)** and **Siemens Medical Systems, Inc. (SMSI)** where SMSI shall be the absorbed corporation and SIEMENS shall be the surviving corporation pursuant to the Articles of Merger executed by and between the said corporations on 21 September 2001.

SMSI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SIEMENS and all obligations and contracts entered into by SMSI will, by operation of law, be assumed by SIEMENS.

(PDI – Jan. 15, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby that the estate of the deceased AGUSTIN LAGUDA SOTTO, of Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, who died on April 24, 2001, has been the subject of an Affidavit of Adjudication executed by his sole heir, Aida Laguda Sotto, in a document executed on November 24, 2001 and notarized by Notary Public Atty. Jose Sta. Ana and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc.No. 128; Page No. 26; Book No. 58; Series of 2001 (PDI-Jan.8,15&22, 2001)

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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

Hon. Francisco "Paco" G. Varona, Jr.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 12, 2002 at the age of 77.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Dulce Memorial Chapel, Second Floor, Prime Chapel, 2926 Jose Abad Santos Avenue, Manuguit, Tondo, Manila.

His remains will be transferred to Manila City Hall on January 17, 2002, Thursday at 9:00 AM.

Interment will be at 2:00 PM at Manila North Cemetery.

MAURA FLORES YAMAT

of Masantol, Pampanga and Mandaluyong

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 12, 2002 at the age of 91.

Prayers for the eternal repose of her soul are requested by her loving children, grandchildren,

CHILDREN

Roberto & Neng
Teodoro & Lolita
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brothers, sisters, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, relatives and friends.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Family Chapel, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park on Wednesday, January 16, 2002, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Mt. Carmel.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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On the First Death Anniversary of

PANCRACIO MINA ADIARTE

of Luong City and Imus, Cavite

who joined his Creator on January 15, 2001

His wife Milagros Manela; children Carlito, Ferdinand, and Miriam; daughters-in-law, grandchildren, sister and brothers, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered today, January 15, 2002 at the following Catholic Churches:

St. Joseph Archdiocesan Shrine, Project 3, Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City 6:00 PM
Quiapo Parish Church, Manila 11:00 AM
Nuestra Sra. del Pilar Cathedral, Imus, Cavite 6:00 AM

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

In Loving Memory

on the **First Death Anniversary** of

SALVACION TANCHULING ZAN

who died in the Grace of our Lord on January 15, 2001.

The family requests the pious readers to remember Salvacion in their prayers.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.

Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow when we will be united again... one at heart and one in heaven.

Our loving sympathies.

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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

HIGH COURT RULING

Gov't firm told to sell land to Firestone

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

THE SUPREME Court has voided a 1989 directive of then President Corazon Aquino transferring a 2.9-hectare government land in Sta. Mesa, Manila, to the state-run Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

In a 20-page decision, the high court instead ordered the government-owned National Development Corp. to sell the property to Firestone Ceramics Inc., a private firm and a long-standing lessee.

Firestone Ceramics, manufacturers of industrial ceramics, enjoys the right of first refusal over the property.

The Supreme Court order virtually stripped the PUP of its rights over the state property, located on Pureza Street.

Respecting lease contract

Allowing the university to use the property was tantamount to a "travesty of justice," the tribunal stressed. "Education may be prioritized for legislative or budgetary purposes, but we doubt if such importance can be used to confiscate private property, such as Firestone's right of first refusal."

The high court said it recognized that the PUP needed the property to expand its campus. However, it emphasized that the law "respects the lease contract between the NDC and Firestone Ceramics."

The Supreme Court "simply did what it was supposed to do. That is, giving justice where justice is due," according to businessman and Firestone owner Mariano Nocom.

"In as much as the first contract of lease fixed the area of the leased premises at 2.9 hectares while the second contract placed it at 2.6 hectares, let a ground survey of the leased premises be immediately conducted by a duly licensed and registered surveyor at the expense of private respondent Firestone Ceramics Inc. within two months from finality of the judgment in this case. Thereafter, Firestone shall have six months from receipt of the approved survey within which to exercise its right to purchase the leased property at P1,500 per square meters, and petitioned PUP is ordered to reconvey the property to Firestone in the exercise of its right of first refusal upon payment of the purchase price," ordered the Supreme Court.

The high court's decision was penned by Associate Justice Josue Bellosillo, Second Division chair, with the concurrence of fellow associate justices Vicente Mendoza, Arturo Buena and Sabino de Leon Jr.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. certified that "the conclusions in the decision were reached in consultation before the case was assigned to (Bellosillo)."

Records

Court records showed that in the early 1960s, the NDC "had in its disposal a 10-hectare property located along Pureza Street, Sta. Mesa. The estate was popularly known as the NDC compound."

On Aug. 24, 1965, the NDC and Firestone entered into a lease contract covering 2.9 hectares.

The contract stipulates that the 10-year lease is renewable for another 10 years. It also expressly recognized the ceramic manufacturer's "right of first refusal" to purchase the leased property "should the lessor decide to sell the same."

Three and a half years later, Firestone entered into a second lease contract with NDC over a steel warehouse in Davao.

According to the tribunal, the lessor-lessee relationship went smoothly until early 1988 when Firestone informed the NDC of its intention to renew the lease.

"While its March 17, 1988 letter was answered by NDC general manager Antonio Henson, the rest of its communications remained unacknowledged. Firestone's predicament worsened with rumors of NDC's supposed plans to dispose of the property in favor of PUP."

Legal battle

A legal battle started with Firestone asking the court to compel the NDC to sell the leased property in its favor, saying it was preempting the impending sale of the NDC compound to the PUP in violation of its leasehold rights over the disputed property.

SQUATTER homes have mushroomed near the gate of Firestone Ceramics in Sta. Mesa, Manila. BETOY JOHNSON

On Feb. 21, 1989, the PUP moved to intervene and asserted its interest in the Sta. Mesa real estate. It referred to Memorandum Order 214, issued by President Aquino ordering the transfer of the whole NDC compound to the national government, which in turn would convey the property in favor of the PUP.

"The issuance was supposedly made in recognition of PUP's status as the "Poor Man's University" as well as its serious need to extend its campus in order to accommodate the growing student population," the tribunal said.

The trial court granted the PUP's motion to intervene, convinced that the school was a "necessary party to the controversy that ought to be joined as party defendant to avoid multiplicity of suits."

Firestone moved for reconsideration but was denied. The Court of Appeals then affirmed the trial court's order.

Following the denial of its petition, Firestone amended its complaint to include the PUP and then Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraeg Jr. as party defendants and sought the annulment of Memorandum Order 214.

After trial on the merits, judgment was rendered declaring the lease contract between the NDC and Firestone valid and existing until June 2, 1999. The court also ordered the PUP to sell the 2.6-hectare land to Firestone at P1,500 per square meter.

Subsequently, the Court of Appeals affirmed the decision of the trial court ordering the sale of the property to Firestone, saying the NDC "cannot look to Memorandum Order 214 to excuse or shield it from its contractual obligations to Firestone."

PUP moved for reconsideration, asserting that in ordering the sale of the property to Firestone, the courts unfairly created a contract to sell between the parties.

"PUP further contended that since a real property in Sta. Mesa can readily command P10,000 per square meter, the lower court gravely erred in ordering the sale at only P1,500 per square meter. It also advanced the theory that Memorandum Order 214 amounted to a withdrawal of Firestone's option to buy the property," according to the tribunal.

But the Supreme Court said, "we do not see it the way PUP and NDC did. It is elementary that a party to a contract cannot unilaterally withdraw a right of first refusal that stands upon valuable consideration."

According to the tribunal, "the preponderance of evidence shows that NDC sold to PUP the whole NDC compound, including the leased premises, without the knowledge much less consent of Firestone which had a valid and existing right of first refusal."

Resolution

On July 26, 2000, the tribunal issued a resolution dismissing the PUP's petition for review for having been filed out of time.

"PUP moved for reconsideration. Strangely, about the same time several articles came out in the newspapers assailing the denial of the petition. The papers reported that we unreasonably dismissed the petition on technical grounds to the prejudice of the government in the amount of P1 billion" which the high court dismissed as "way too exaggerated, if not fantastic."

The NDC "sold the whole 10.3-hectare property to PUP at only P57,193,201.64 which represents NDC's obligation to the government. The price offered was P554.74 per square meter. Firestone's leased premises would therefore be worth only P14,423,240. From any angle, this amount is certainly far below the ballyhooed price of P1 billion."

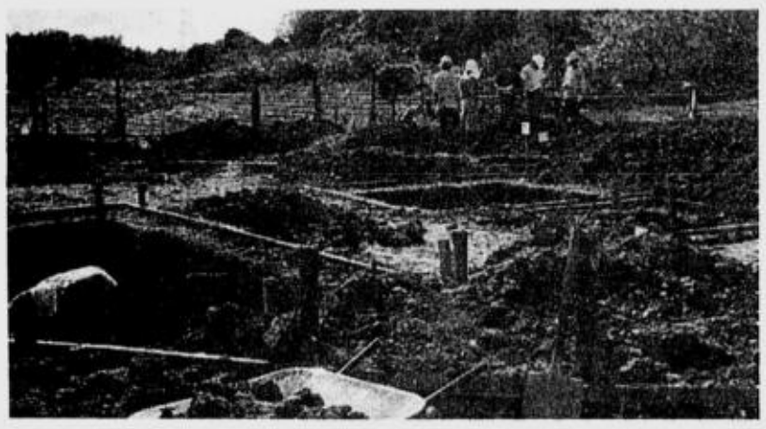
Warning

In its decision, the Supreme Court also cautioned the PUP against "bidding for public sympathy by bewailing the dismissal of its petition before the press."

"Such advocacy is not likely to elicit the compassion of this court or of any court for that matter. An entreaty for a favorable disposition of a case not made directly through pleadings and oral arguments before the courts do not persuade us, for as judges, we are ruled only by our forsworn duty to give justice where justice is due," the tribunal said.

The high court noted that "a litigation is not simply a contest of litigants before the bar of public opinion. More than that, it is a pursuit of justice through legal and equitable means."

"To prevent the search for justice from evolving into a competition for public approval, society invests the judiciary with complete independence thereby insulating it from demands expressed through any medium, the press not excluded. Thus, if the court would merely reflect and worse, succumb to the great pressures of the day, the end result, it is feared, would be a travesty of justice," said the Supreme Court.



CONSTRUCTION of the Children's Village started in December.

Children's Village construction on

TEN cottages, spaces for learning, play and meditation, gardens, pool and ponds as well as an organic farm and fruit orchard will be part of the Bantay Bata Children's Village now being constructed in Norzagaray, Bulacan. Proponents of the village strongly believe that the blend of elements in the design will create a gentle atmosphere essential to the healing of a child.

The village is envisioned to become home to 200 children where they will be reared and nourished by the highest standards in childcare, a place where abused children could "once again be able to dream."

Construction of the village is composed of two phases. Phase I includes the construction of the clusters comprising of cottages that will house the children. The construction of the first six cottages, together with landscaping, is already under way. Then the administration building will be constructed as part of phase 2 of the project.

For now, the Bantay Bata 163 Children's Home provides temporary shelter for about 30 children undergoing therapy and rehabilitation until they can be united with their families. But ABS-CBN Foundation managing director Gina Lopez found the need to establish an ideal community for children needing long-term shelter—paving the way to the construction giving birth to the realization of the Children's Village.

Actual construction began in December. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held earlier that year, with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor. In her speech, the President underlined the need to face the problem of child abuse.

Said President Macapagal: "The Bantay Bata 163 Children's Village could not have come at a more fitting time for indeed the problem of battered, oppressed children, of homeless children, of street children is a growing social reality. This is not just a simple social problem. It is a ticking time bomb waiting to explode."

Lopez initiated cleansing rites at the site together with Bantay Bata 163 managers to commence the construction. Incense, salt, rice and flowers were offered to invoke protection, prosperity and harmony on the children and people who will dwell in the village.

Skyway System: well-paved roads, adequate lighting, A-1 security

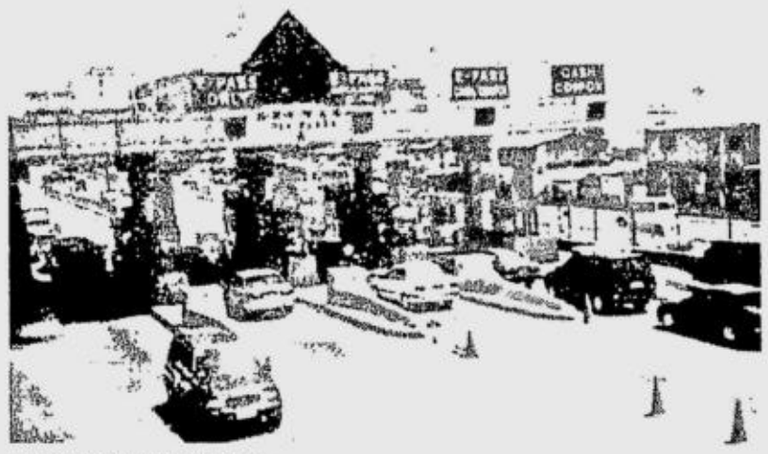
BY VICENTE B. FOZ
Contributor

EACH day, more than 150,000 motorists use the Skyway System as part of their travel routine, and many of them can attest to the added comfort and safety they experience using it. Well-paved roads, adequate lighting, responsive security personnel—all these and more make up the building blocks of a well-managed toll road. Compared to most toll road systems in the country, the Skyway System stands out.

Time was when traveling from southern Metro Manila to the capital's centers of commerce was a motorist's nightmare. Tempers flared as vehicles piled up with honking abandon along the worn-out South Luzon Expressway (SLE). Worse scenarios saw motorists take as much as four hours in virtual standstill. It was an ordeal thousands thought would never end. It didn't help that as the years went by, more vehicles found their way into the already clogged roadways, further aggravating the lot of motorists.

But in the early 1990s, a group of concerned businessmen vowed to help the motorists out. Their plan was to build an elevated roadway soaring over the traffic-plagued expressway, providing an alternate route for those who found the traffic then too much to bear. The result was the Metro Manila Skyway, a mammoth structure that provided a new expressway experience unlike any other. For the first time in a very long period, the southern residents tasted smooth, almost unimpeded travel between Makati and Bicutan. Their travel time was slashed significantly, a feat that was then seen as impossible, a pipe dream.

Constructing an elevated roadway over traffic-swollen SLE would have normally been scoffed at. One had to seal off entire road sections to be able to haul and install the massive pierheads and beams needed in the construction. Just thinking about the vehicular chaos that would ensue because of this was enough to scrap the idea.



THE SKYWAY Toll Plaza

But an ingenuous technology developed in Indonesia allowed the construction of the Skyway without radically affecting the traffic flow on the ground level. After two years of work, motorists took to the Skyway for the first time, and thought it was just too good to be true.

Traffic eased, even on the ground or at-grade level of the SLE, particularly the Magallanes-Alabang stretch, which underwent total facelift courtesy of the Skyway project proponents. Since this stretch is integrated into the Skyway System, what's left under the SLE jurisdiction is the Alabang-Calamba section of the expressway.

Although a number of motorists questioned the relatively higher toll rates of the Skyway compared to other toll roads in the country, the verdict was irrefutable: the trip was well worth it.

Sacrificing for public interest

Based on the contract between the Skyway investor, operator, and the government (called the Supplemental Toll Operations Agreement, or Stoa), the investor would construct the elevated Skyway from Makati to Bicutan and rehabilitate the Magallanes to Alabang (at-grade) portion of the South Luzon Expressway. These two projects comprise the Skyway System. The initial toll rates of P55 for the elevated section and P22.50 for the Magallanes-Alabang at-grade were agreed upon as early as 1995 when the Stoa was signed.

The Metro Manila Skyway Project cost of over $500 million came from equity contributions and from foreign and domestic borrowings. At the time the Stoa was signed, the exchange rate was P26:$1. For every dollar loaned, P26 was needed to pay it back. And these payments were to come from the toll fees paid by the users of the Skyway. P26 sounded like a manageable rate.

But the Asian currency crisis during the second half of the 1990s took everyone by surprise, sending the Philippine peso on a tailspin. The Stoa specifies that the investor could request for a toll increase if the currency devalues by at least 10 percent, and such a devaluation occurred as early as July 1997, when the exchange rate started to fall to P29:$1 up to P36:$1 before 1997 ended. The investor could have petitioned for a toll increase, but didn't, even if it knew that doing so would hurt its ability to pay back the dollar loans.

When the Skyway System was completed in 1999, the exchange rate floundered about P39 and P40 to a dollar. Still, the investor held on, finding comfort in the fact that many motorists have lauded the increased driving comfort because of the Skyway System.

Letting go but staying true

By the end of 2000, the peso had deteriorated by almost 100 percent since 1995. For every dollar loaned, around P50 was needed to pay for it. Seeing that it could no longer hold on; being concerned over its ability to pay back its dollar loans, the investor petitioned for a toll increase in December 2000.

For goodwill's sake, the investor ignored for over four years its privilege specified in the Stoa to petition for a toll increase. Public hearings were held at the Toll Regulatory Board on the toll increase petition for the whole of 2001.

The inability to pay back a large loan is enough to drive investors away. Given our country's need for valuable investments, the grant of toll increase in accordance with the provisions of the Stoa is not only important, it is also vital to the long-term growth of the country's economy.

During all this time, however, the operators of the Skyway System kept to its commitment by being on constant alert and efficiently maintaining its facilities. What's more, they sought to even improve its services. In late 2000, the introduction of the e-Pass—the country's first contactless electronic toll collection system—allowed faster transactions at the toll booths. In mid-2001, the Skyway operators partnered with the Lifeline Arrows emergency medical response team. At the same time, security and safety was enhanced with the declaration of the Skyway System as a Traffic Discipline Zone.

The traffic situation in Southern Metro Manila now is far better compared to the horrors of yesteryears. And this would not have been possible without the Skyway System. The challenge of the Skyway investors and operator now, however, is to convince motorists that they are getting much more than what they pay for. Because, in fact, they are. *PLG News & Views*

Creba suspends membership of Powerhouse Unlimited

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) has announced that it has temporarily delisted the Powerhomes Unlimited Corp. as Creba member until after it has complied with certain undertakings.

Acting on the report and recommendation of its ethics committee, the Creba board of directors resolved that it is to the best interest of all parties concerned that the Powerhomes membership be suspended until such time that appropriate corrective measures have been installed.

On Oct. 5, the committee conducted a hearing on the case where the company's top officials were present, after Creba received expressions of concerns from certain parties as to the nature and manner of operation of Powerhomes Unlimited Corp.

The committee reported that, after a thorough analysis of the company's profile, primary purpose, nature of business and manner of operation, it became apparent that these are not aligned with the purpose and objectives of Creba. This is especially with regard to the extension of assistance to homeless families in acquiring house- and-lot packages.

Metro Point opens at Edsa, Taft junction

THERE'S a new shopping center at the crossroads of Edsa and Taft Avenue that promises ultimate convenience to commuters, housewives, office workers and other metro residents who are constantly on the go.

Metro Point, a five-level commercial center linking LRT 1 and MRT 3, is managed by ALI-CII Development Corp.—a joint venture between Ayala Land Inc. and Concepcion Industries Inc. It opened Dec. 1.

Offering a variety of fast services, food and affordable retail outlets, this mid-market mall caters to the needs of budget-conscious people with fast-paced lifestyle and who put a premium on accessibility. It's for people who value convenience.

Located where two of the busiest public transport systems meet, Metro Point allows the thousands of commuters who take the rail and even those who simply pass through to do quick buys, dine and hunt for bargains at the same time.

With more than 8,000 square meters of leasable space, the commercial center provides comfort and security many shoppers look for in a mall. It also has 66 parking slots in the basement.

The ground floor is anchored by Rustan's Xpresslane Supermarket, National Bookstore and Mercury Drug while the second level has outlets offering popular mid-market brands as well as major fast-food chains. The third floor is a discount and bargain place, the fourth has hard goods retail, electronics, computers and appliances, and the fifth has clinics and bazaars.

Last month, the second level of the mall was already connected to MRT 3 while the third level will link up with LRT 1 by June 2002.

Metro Point's other merchants are Abenson's, Bench, David's Salon, Hapag Kainan, Human, Janilyn, Jollibee, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Mendrez, Penshoppe, Planet Sports, The P99 Store, Timezone, Tropical Hut, Workstation and Yoshinoya.

Construction of LRT 1 extension project starts

ONE of Cavite Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" A. Maliksi's four ambitious road and transportation projects takes concrete form early this year with the construction of the $847 million light rail transit initial extension from Baclaran to Bacoor, Cavite.

The Department of Transportation and Communications said in a statement that construction work on the LRT 1 extension Project will begin early this year, following the signing on Dec. 20 of the implementation agreement between the government and Canada-based SNC Lavalin International Inc.

Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and Canadian Ambassador Robert Collett, representing the contracting foreign firm, signed the documents.

Maliksi, acknowledged as the man who worked the hardest to have the project get off the drawing boards, was invited to the signing which took place in Malacañang.

4 projects

The LRT extension up to Cavite is one of the four road and transport projects Maliksi has been pushing hard to undertake to put Cavite again, he said, "at the forefront of industrialization in the country." The others are the extension of the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway to Noveleta, Bacoor; the Cavite Urban Mass Transport (Busway) Project; and the construction of another highway parallel to Aguinaldo Highway from Noveleta to Tagaytay City.

Phase 1 of the LRT 1 Extension Project will link Baclaran to Bacoor, a distance of 12 kilometers. The next phase will connect Bacoor to Imus over a 4-km rail line while Phase 3 will bridge the 11-km distance between Imus and Dasmariñas.

Completion of the Cavite rail line from Baclaran to Dr. Santos Avenue in Parañaque City may be completed before its 2004 deadline, according to Alvarez.

The Coastal Road line will be serviced by 14 trains each made up of 14 air-conditioned cars, which can accommodate up to 550 passengers each.

Maliksi said the DOTC's investment and coordinating committee and the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) approved the implementation agreement, paving the way for the construction of the project that will greatly cut down travel time of commuters to and from Cavite and increase their working productivity.

Declogging traffic

Overall, the project, according to Maliksi, will help declog traffic not only in Cavite but in Metro Manila as well. When the Cavite LRT becomes fully operational, Cavite commuters could interlink with the existing LRT in Baclaran and the MRT on Taft Avenue in Pasay City.

The number of buses plying on Edsa would be reduced once commuters start taking the LRT, Maliksi said.

At present, Makati- or Manila-bound motorists and commuters taking the Aguinaldo Highway and Coastal Road sometimes take three or four hours to wiggle out of the bumper-to-bumper traffic on these stretches. Through the LRT they would reach Manila or Makati in less then 30 minutes.

This traffic situation, Maliksi said, was one reason investors moved out of or totally ignored Cavite. "Businessmen need at the longest only one hour to move their products or services to the nearest airport or pier, but that's hard to achieve with the kind of road and transport system we have right now."

Maliksi's involvement in the LRT extension project began even when he was still mayor of Imus from 1988 to 1998 and continued through his term as congressman of the second district of Cavite.

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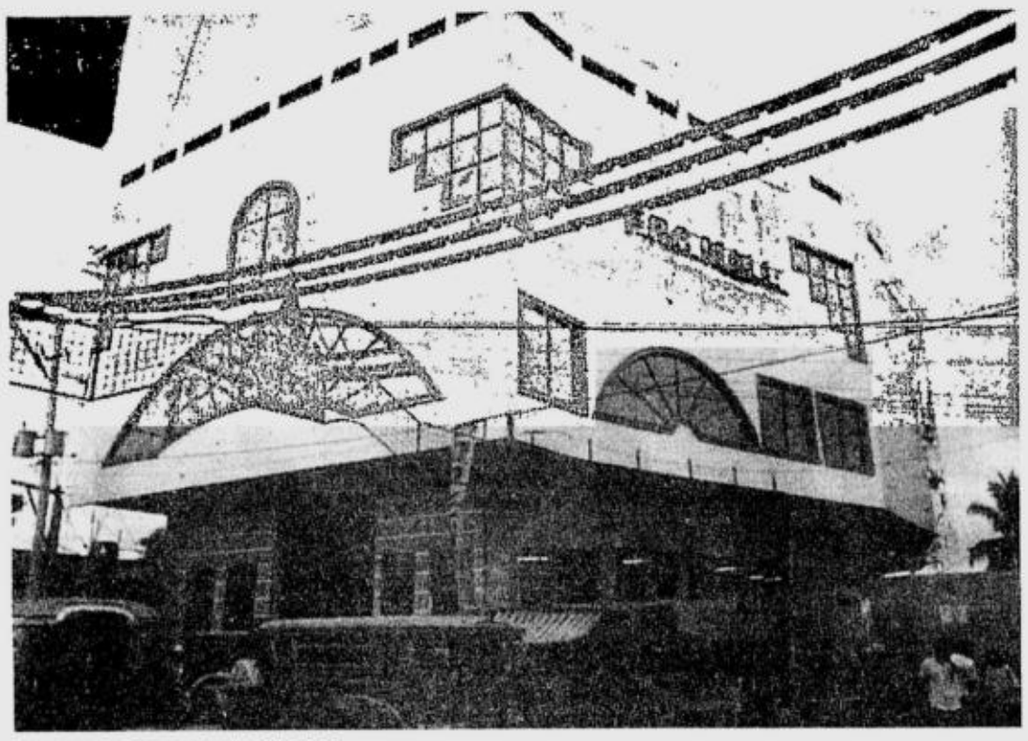

'TIANGGE NG BAYAN'

As its initial offering to its consumers, Cuevasville Plaza, the newest mall to open in Bacoor, Cavite, recently held a successful "Tiangge ng Bayan" where various wares were sold at rock-bottom prices. Its various tenants are now busy putting the finishing touches on their respective stalls. Cuevasville Plaza is a four-story building that sits on a 32,000 square-meter lot.

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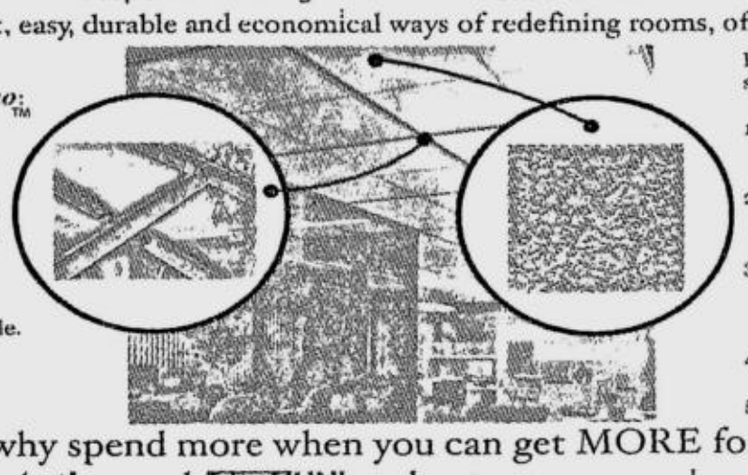

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Fiber in cement fights cracks, water leaks

CONCRETE producers, contractors, engineers, architects and construction professionals agree on one thing—cracking in concrete can be everything from an ugly mark on the wall to a crumbling structural nightmare. No matter where cracks occur, they are a major problem. Repairing cracks is often serious and costly. That's why a simple prevention of cracks is better than trying to repair these ugly building scars, which may cost big amount of money. In this case, a centavo of prevention can be worth millions pesos in repairs.

Stopping cracks

Introducing fiber, such as Tip Top Fiber Reinforce, into the concrete mixture prevents micro cracks from further growth. Tiny cracks remain in their initial small size, thereby eliminating the development of large, visible cracks. It has been proven that the inclusion of fibers reduces plastic shrinkage cracking by 95 to 100 percent in a slab composed of good quality concrete, placed and cured following recommended concrete practices.

Adding 600 grams of Tip Top Fiber Reinforce to a cubic meter of concrete during mixing allows fiber to separate into individual fiber strands and become evenly distributed throughout the concrete. This causes about 5,000,000 individual fibers per cubic meter or about five fibers per cubic centimeter to bring maximum reinforcement to every nook of the concrete.

Preventing water seepage

Generally, new concrete has minimal hairline cracks but due to building movements and loads, these tiny cracks develop into bigger cracks allowing water to permeate and leak. Adding fiber reinforce into concrete mix for roof decks and topping during construction provide all-around internal reinforcement against cracks and crack formation.

For wet roads and highways, water easily passes through cracks until it reaches the steel reinforcements and destroy both the supporting structure and the road itself. Normally, for slabs and other horizontal concrete structures, fibers are found to be more effective and economical to use than wire mesh or secondary reinforcements. When added to concrete mix, Tip Top Fiber Reinforce provides a three-dimensional crack-fighting system that is always placed correctly. These fibers distribute themselves throughout the concrete, providing a uniform reinforcement alternative.

Tip Top Fiber Reinforce is much more effective than secondary reinforcements. It reduces labor costs and is easier to use.

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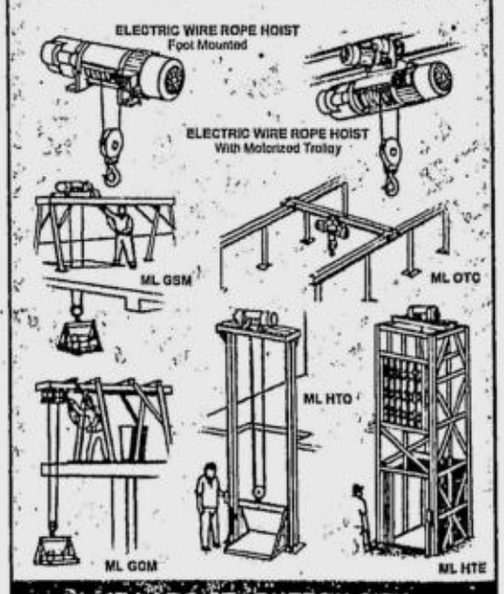

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If you experience stress daily without letup, it can affect your cardiovascular system, digestive system, immune system, nervous system and muscular system

Why stress can make you sick

YOU cannot completely remove stress from your life because stress is an inevitable part of being alive. In fact, a little stress is necessary to motivate, challenge and stimulate you to achieve your goals. For example, I need the pressure of a deadline to write this column every week. Without the deadline, I would probably procrastinate and put it off for another week or even another month. However, if there's too much stress or if the stress becomes chronic then it becomes a destructive force in your life.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

According to scientist Hans Selye, "Stress is the body's response to any demand put on it, real or imagined." Apparently, even just thinking about something that stresses you out makes your body respond as if the stressor were real. When your mind is stressed, your body is, too. No wonder worrying is so bad for you.

Fight-or-flight

Your body is designed with several automatic survival mechanisms to ensure the continuation of our species. One of those mechanisms is called the fight-or-flight response. Your body responds to a stressful situation as if it were a matter of life and death.

Since your body thinks it has only two choices —to fight or to flee—it will prepare you for sudden vigorous movement by releasing stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline. These hormones prepare you to become a mean fighting machine or the fastest coward in your neighborhood. Your body sends large amounts of nutrients and oxygen to your muscles and brain by increasing heart rate and blood pressure, and by shunting blood flow away from your digestive system.

Your breathing becomes rapid and shallow. Your blood stream is flooded with fat and glucose for energy. Clotting agents are released to slow down bleeding rate in case you are injured. Nerve transmissions are accelerated so you will have faster reflexes and you can make quick decisions. Your muscles tense up in preparation to slug it out with your "enemy" or run away to fight another day.

As you can see, the stress response does have benefits and one day, it could save your life if you have to get out of the way of a speeding wayward car or if you have to defend yourself against a mugger.

Unfortunately, the body responds the same way to a stressful day at the office. It does not know that a demanding boss and not a hungry tiger is stressing you out. If you experience stress on an everyday basis without any letup, the same survival mechanism that will save your life if you have to run out of a burning building can make you very sick.

Cardiovascular system

"Sticky" blood is excellent at times when you might get slashed with a knife, but not good for just having to face the stress of traffic every day. The result can be an increased risk for heart attack or stroke because of blood clots. Constantly having increased blood pressure can lead to hypertension and worn-out blood vessels.

The stress hormone cortisol makes your body store fat in the deep storage sites in your abdomen (in contrast to fat stored superficially under your skin). This kind of fat is associated with an increased risk of heart attack. Stress also increases your appetite (remember that your body thinks it needs to replenish energy that was used up to fight or run away). It makes you very "oral," which is why smoking, overeating, drinking and biting your nails are common ways of coping with stress. Well, guess what? Smoking also increases your cortisol levels, making you store even more fat in your abdominal area. Talk about

WHY/p.C3

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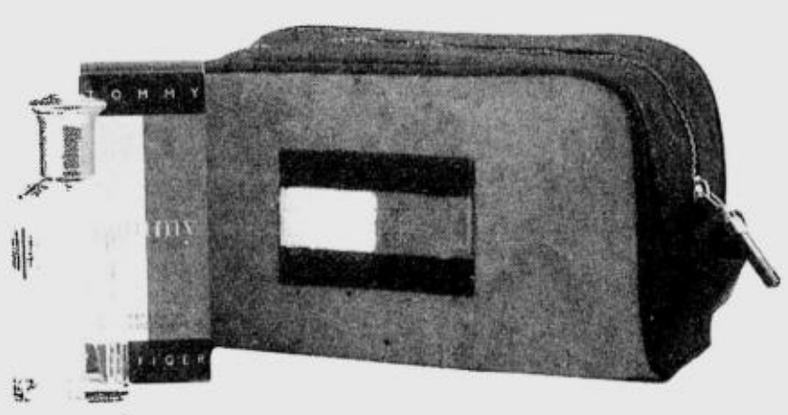

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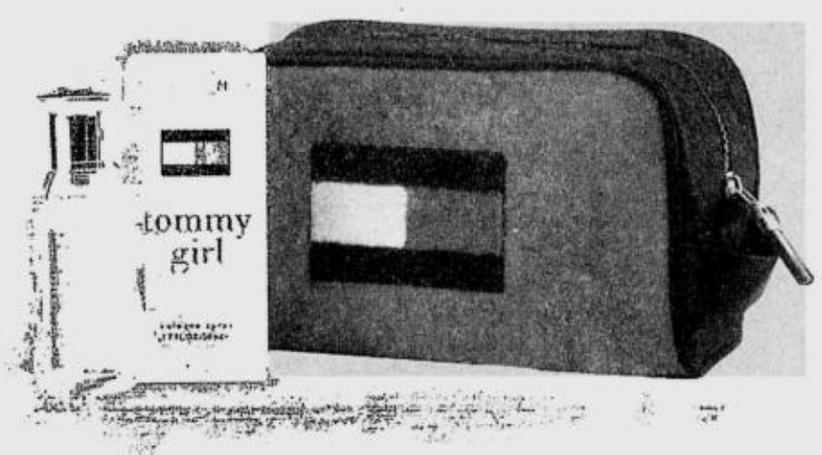

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HILFIGER

Who do you love among the MTV Asia Awards 2002 nominees? Text in your votes now.

Check out the list of categories and nominees on the opposite page.

By voting through text, you could Win one of 5 SMART Buddy Panasonic GD75 celfone kits!

How strongly do you feel about your favorite artists? Let them know, by texting in your votes to the MTV Asia Awards 2002, to be held in Singapore on February 2, 2002. You can vote as many times as you like, in any category. And each vote gives you a chance at winning a new SMART Buddy celfone! Your vote really counts! Voting period is until January 19, 2002. So, vote wisely for your favorite artists now!

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SMART
Simply Amazing!

Doctor encounters strange phenomena

I HAVE always pointed in this column the reality of the spirit world and its influence in our daily lives. Because we are so focused on the physical and mundane world, we often do not notice the workings of the spirits, unless they become so dramatic we can no longer ignore them.

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

The following is the true story of a female doctor who was confronted by a series of paranormal phenomena beyond the grasp of her scientific mind. In desperation, she wrote to me for help.

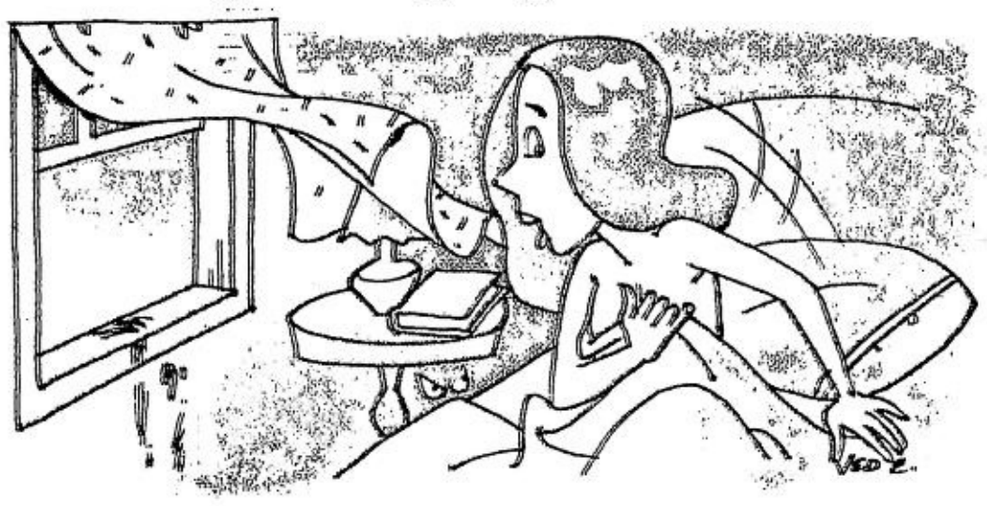


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Cutting of old trees

"I am a 38-year-old pediatrician, married for five years but still without a child. I only occasionally read your column because I am scared of ghosts and paranormal stories. I dream of them, so I purposely avoid them.

"However, several weird occurrences in the past few months have compelled me to write to you. At first I just ignored them. In fact I was always in the denial stage before, because I usually sleep alone at night because my husband is currently out of the country.

"It all began last May when my husband and I decided to convert my in-laws' lanai into a small condo-type place we could call our own. Prior to this, we were renting an apartment two blocks away from them.

"My in-laws have been requesting us to come back and move in with them. My husband is the younger of only two children, the elder being a girl.

"The 80-sq m area was sort of an open space bound above by my in-laws' big bedroom. There were no walls, just an open area where one can access the swimming pool.

"There were about three or four trees (maybe 25-30 years old) which had to be cut to maximize the space for our "house." By the middle of June, only the final touches were left unfinished, so we moved in.

Locked out three times

"It was at this point that certain odd things began to happen. First of all, the door locks seemed to have a mind of their own, locking us out three times. We were all sure no one had locked them before going out.

"Blaming the whole incident on poor craftsmanship (although these were high-quality Schlage locks), we opted to change the locks.

"Guess what? While the doorknob/lock was being changed, it got locked by itself again—locking me, my husband and the architect inside!

"There were construction workers outside, but they couldn't open it either, not with the key, not with the *sungkit* method. So they had to destroy the brand-new doorknob.

"Secondly, a brand-new National water heater wouldn't work here at home. So they had to bring it to the service center twice, where it worked perfectly well. A brand-new water motor pump, which was also of good quality, conked out the first time it was installed.

"After all these strange happenings, we decided to have the house blessed immediately, even though there were still a few finishing touches left to be done.

"After the blessing, everything became normal—until last Nov. 17. After my husband and I returned from Mass, our maids told us they weren't able to finish cleaning the room because the door got locked accidentally. I didn't give this much importance thinking the maids might have accidentally locked themselves out.

Straps removed, breast exposed

"But then, early morning on Nov. 27, I was awakened at 5:47 a m. by a call of nature. The moment I went inside the bathroom, I felt a strong presence. I don't know how to explain it. I felt this presence was watching me. I was so scared to turn on the light to check out, so I just went back to bed and prayed really hard until I fell asleep. That was the second consecutive day I was awakened at exactly 5:47a.m.

"But what happened on Nov. 28 at 5:30 a.m. was what gave me the strength to accept that something paranormal or supernatural is going on, and that I should perhaps write to you to ask for help.

"I was awakened at 5:30 a.m. and surprised to see that my left breast was exposed, and that the straps of my shirt were not only off my shoulders, both my arms were free of the straps, which were underneath my armpits! I don't know if you can imagine it. I was thinking that, maybe, I got so restless in my sleep they slid off. But that's impossible. The straps are so short they couldn't slide off on their own. I would have to fold or bend my arms at the elbow joint and slip both arms through the armhole for me to achieve that. It sure gave me the creeps!

"I'm writing to you because there is a certain urgency to my situation. After being childless for five years, we decided this month to undergo in-vitro fertilization, popularly known as "test tube baby." An embryo, formed from my egg, fertilized by my husband's sperm, was transferred to me last October. I was advised by my doctor to have complete bed rest and avoid stress of any kind.

"But how can I after all these scary things happenings to us? They are stressing me out! In fact, I'm so scared to sleep tonight, afraid that if I open my eyes, I will see something I shouldn't see.

"What do you think? Are these merely coincidences, or is it possible we angered some spirits inhabiting the place? Will they do us harm? How can we make them go away? I hope you can help me. I'm so scared.

"I hope all this will not give rise to a negative outcome of the biological process I am now undergoing. Because, in essence, an embryo, our baby, has been transferred to me and we are just praying *na kumapit siya*. And these problems are not helping me in any way. Thank you for your time."

On several occasions in this column, I have warned the public about the dangers of arbitrarily cutting down old trees without asking permission from their invisible inhabitants. I have known cases of terrible sickness, accidents, disharmony and marital separation befalling families who have ignored this warning. This is no mere laughing matter.

It is clear from the story that the couple has angered some nature spirits or elementals when they cut down several old trees and cleared the place during the construction of their house. The destruction of their habitat was to them a grave offense that must be punished. That's why from then on they have been making life miserable for the new residents.

It is not clear to me yet who removed the straps from the doctor's shirt and exposed her breast. This should be determined first. It looks like an attempt at undressing her completely. Because she woke up, the attempt failed.

If this was done by the elementals or nature spirits whom the couple has angered, it may not go beyond this. But if this was done by an incubus, an evil male spirit who wants to experience again sexual pleasure, it could be an attempt at rape or at least some form of sexual molestation.

What can be done? Somebody who can see elementals and spirits, a clairvoyant, should visit the place to determine what type of spirits is present in the area. If elementals, some form of peace offering should be made by the couple.

If there is a spirit of the dead or, worse, if an incubus is present, then there is need for a more drastic procedure. There may be a need for exorcism of the place.

In the meantime, I strongly suggest that she stay out of the house until a full investigation and treatment have been done in the premises and cleared of all intruding entities. She should sleep elsewhere for the meantime. This is especially important because of the in-vitro fertilization she is undergoing right now. To ensure success of the procedure and her peace of mind, she should temporarily vacate the house, if at all possible. After exorcism or clearing of evil spirits, she may go back to the house and deliver her baby.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@ geocities. com. Visit www. angelfire.com/journal/ licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard Insured by Fortune

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What is incremental cost?

Incremental costs are charges incurred by a member when he is confined in a room of **HIGHER CATEGORY** or **LEVEL** than what his health card entitles him to (e.g. room plan = Semi-Private, room availed = Private). These are charges over and above what is covered by his health plan and apply not only to room and board but also to other hospital charges as well, such as professional fees, ancillary charges, etc. Incremental cost like excess charges are payable to the hospital and attending physicians, and not to MEDICard.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Roberto L. Santos is MEDICard's accredited service provider based in Davao Doctors Hospital. Dr. Santos, who specializes in General Surgery, is a Medicine graduate from UST. He earned his specialization training from the Methodist Hospital in Illinois, USA. He is a member to both the Philippine College of Surgeons and the Philippine College of General Surgery. For 32 years, he was connected with the Jerome Foundation, an institution based in Los Angeles, USA who sponsors a cleft lip-palate project in the Philippines. He later was designated as consultant in cleft lip surgery. You may visit Dr. Santos for your consultation needs at room 701, Davao Doctors Medical Tower, from Mondays to Saturdays, 9 AM to 12 noon and then again from 3 to 5 in the afternoon.

Contract Signing

HITACHI COMPUTER PRODUCTS (ASIA) CORPORATION recently signed its renewal corporate agreement with MEDICard for the healthcare program of its employees and their dependents. Present during the ceremonies were (Sitting L-R) Mr. Luis S. Montoya (MEDICard EVP and General Manager), Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya (MEDICard President), Mr. Masaaki Imamura (Hitachi President) and Mr. Kenji Kitamura (Hitachi General Manager); (Standing) Mr. Jun V. Miergas (MEDICard Corporate Accounts Manager) together with Hitachi's Family Council Members.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

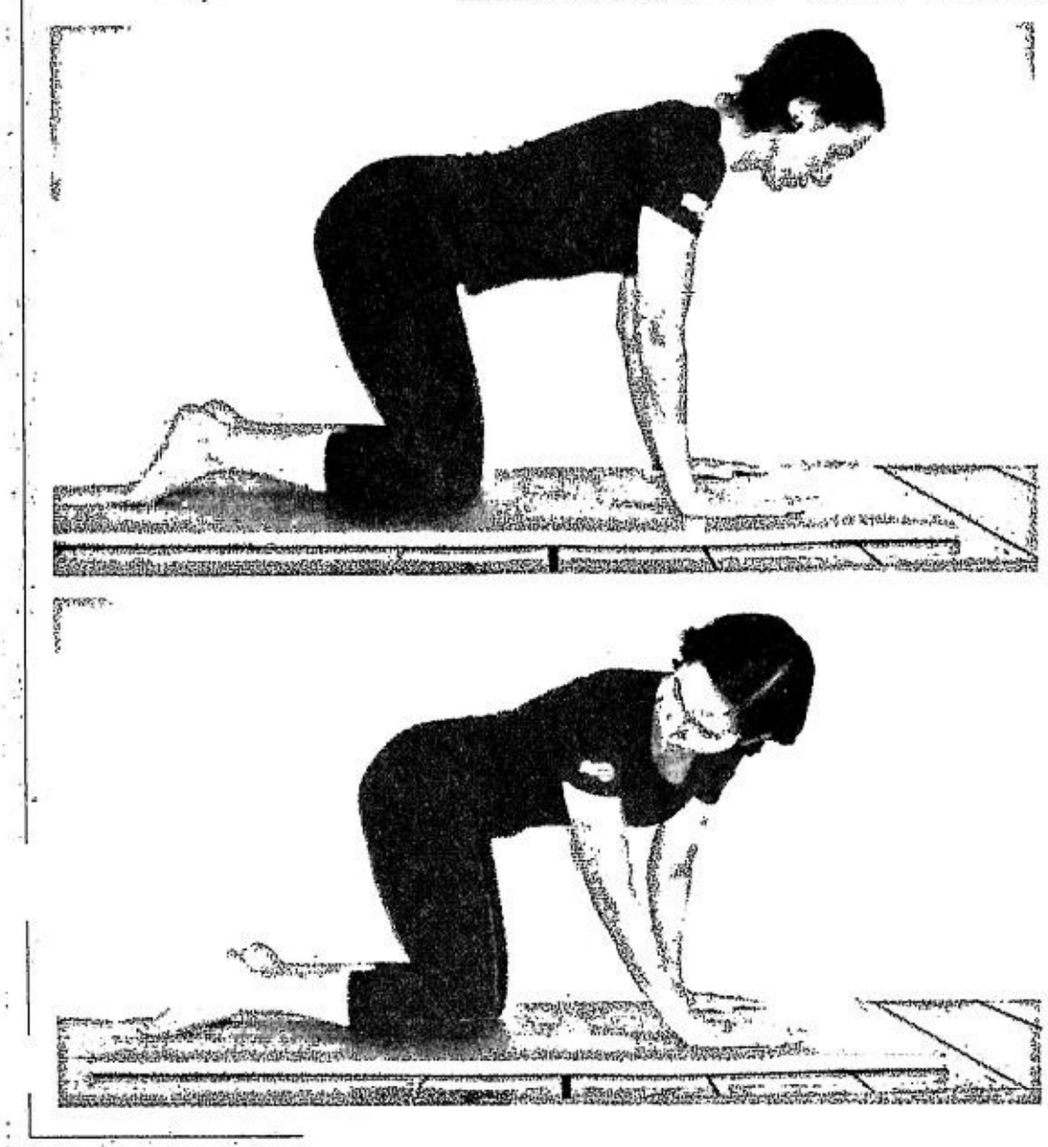
For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



All fours side bend

STRETCHES the sides of the torso.

Equipment:

Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Get on your hands and knees.

2. Keeping your hips stationary, slowly bend at the waist as you try to look behind you.

3. Hold the stretch for 15-30 seconds.

4. Slowly return to the starting position then repeat the stretch on the other side.

Performance tips:

1. Keep arms directly under shoulders and neck in line with your spine.

2. Keep abdominal muscles slightly pulled in to maintain a natural curve in your lower back.

3. Avoid holding your breath.

Repetitions:

Do one to three times.

Why stress can make you sick

(From page C1)

double trouble!

Stress can increase your tendency of having Type II diabetes (another risk factor for heart disease) because of the constantly increased glucose level that your body has to deal with by releasing more insulin than is necessary. This can lead to insulin-resistance, which in turn can lead to Type II diabetes.

Nervous system

According to the Cornell University Medical College, "studies have shown that those who experience a great deal of stress are more likely to go through a major depression." This happens because stress lowers the levels of brain chemicals like serotonin and dopamine, which are responsible for mood.

Barbara Brehm, author of "Stress Management: Increasing Your Stress Resistance," writes that chronic stress can interfere with short-term memory and may even damage certain areas of the brain.

Immune system

Stress lowers your natural resistance to disease and makes you more susceptible to all kinds of infections like skin problems, colds and flu. Brehm explains that stress can worsen or even trigger autoimmune disorders like multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis (an autoimmune disease occurs when your own immune system turns against your body and treats it like an intruder).

Digestive system

Even though the bacterium Helicobacter pylori has been discovered to be the cause of most ulcers, stress still plays a major role because it lessens the protective mucus lining of your stomach. This gives the bacterium a greater chance of attacking you and causing an ulcer.

Other digestive disorders that are stress-related are constipation, diarrhea, irritable bowel syndrome and nausea.

Muscular system

If you have ever had tense and cramped muscles in your neck, shoulder and lower back due to mental stress, you have experienced firsthand the truth of the mind-body connection.

Adrenaline junkies

Stress can become a way of life. In fact, people can even become addicted to the excitement of a stressful life. They become "adrenaline junkies." They are not aware of how stressed they are until something drastic happens and they have to visit their doctor. That's when they find out that their physical symptoms are stress-related. Good if it's nothing more serious than a tense neck or queasy stomach. Sometimes, it can be something as severe as a heart attack or stroke that makes you finally wake up to the reality of how much stress has affected you.

Next week: Control stress before it controls you

For questions and past articles or exercises, log on to www.tinajuanfitness.com

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Versace Givenchy, Mario Armani, Viva Milano (NECKTIES)	P 999.8	P 299.95
YSL Long Sleeves	P 1,320	P 396
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MTV Asia Awards 2002
Categories & Nominees

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST- Philippines
(Keyword: MUSICARTIST)
A - Freestyle
B - Gary Valenciano
C - Lea Salonga
D - Martin Nievera
E - Regine Velasquez

FAVORITE MALE ARTIST
(Keyword:MALEARTIST)
A - Eminem
B - Ricky Martin
C - Robbie Willams
D - Ronan Keating
E - Shaggy

FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST
(Keyword: FEMALEARTIST)
A - Britney Spears
B - Christina Aguilera
C - Jennifer Lopez
D - Madonna
E - Mariah Carey

FAVORITE POP ACT
(Keyword: POPACT)
A - Backstreet Boys
B - Destiny's Child
C - M2M
D - N'Sync
E - Westlife

FAVORITE ROCK ACT
(Keyword: ROCKACT)
A - Bon Jovi
B - Coldplay
C - Limp Bizkit
D - Linkin Park
E - U2

FAVORITE VIDEO
(Keyword: VIDEO)
A - The Call (Backstreet Boys)
B - Weapon of Choice (Fatboy Slim)
C - 19-2000 (Gorillaz)
D - POP (N'Sync)
E - Lady Marmalade (Pink, Christina Aguilera, Mya, Lil' Kim)

FAVORITE BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST (Keyword: BREAKTHROUGH)
A - Coldplay
B - Gorillaz
C - Nelly Furtado
D - Alicia Keys
E - Linkin Park

FAVORITE FILM
(Keyword: FILM)
A - Charlie's Angels
B - Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
C - Rush Hour 2
D - Pearl Harbor
E - Shrek
F - The Mummy Returns

FAVORITE FASHION DESIGNER
(Keyword: FASHION)
A - Donatella Versace (Versace)
B - John Galliano (Christian Dior)
C - Marc Jacobs (Louis Vuitton/ Marc Jacobs)
D - Miuccia Prada (Prada/Miu Miu)
E - Stella McCartney
F - Tom Ford (Gucci/ YSL)

Catch the *live* appearance of
Mandy Moore, Ronan Keating, The Rock
and other stars!

How to register: Key in MTV. Send to 24304 and follow the step-by-step registration procedure.
How to vote: Key in the Category you wish to vote for and send to 24304. You will then receive this message. Key in the letter of your choice and send to 24304.

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INSTRUCTOR Pete Ayala teaches the proper ball placement.

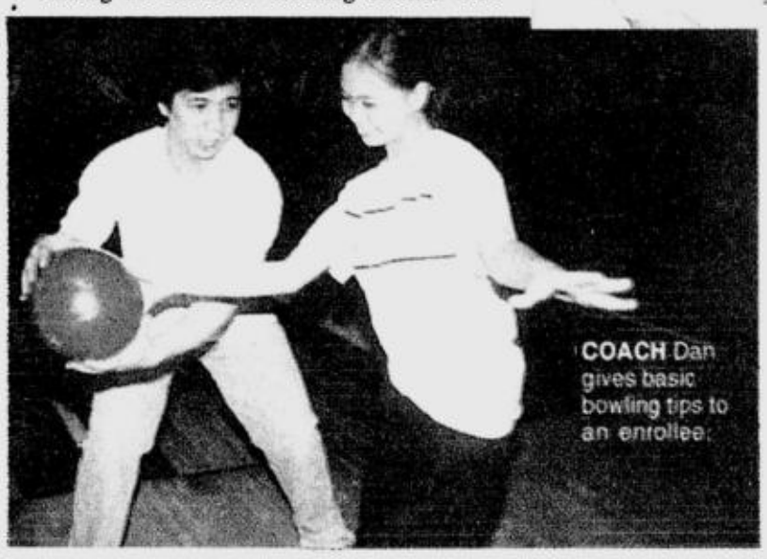
Bowling lessons come with starter kit

SM Bowling Centers are offering lessons that seek to develop one's bowling skills through basic and advanced lessons. The lessons include lectures, training skills and practical on-lane sessions, and also entail written examinations and a review of questions and answers.

First-time enrollees will be entitled to a free Bowling Starter Kit consisting of a shirt, towel, gel pen, cap and mineral water. As they polish their skills, students will be given free Adidas bowling shoes on the second enrollment.

Among the first lane breaking batches were students of the University of the Philippines, who thoroughly enjoyed the lessons.

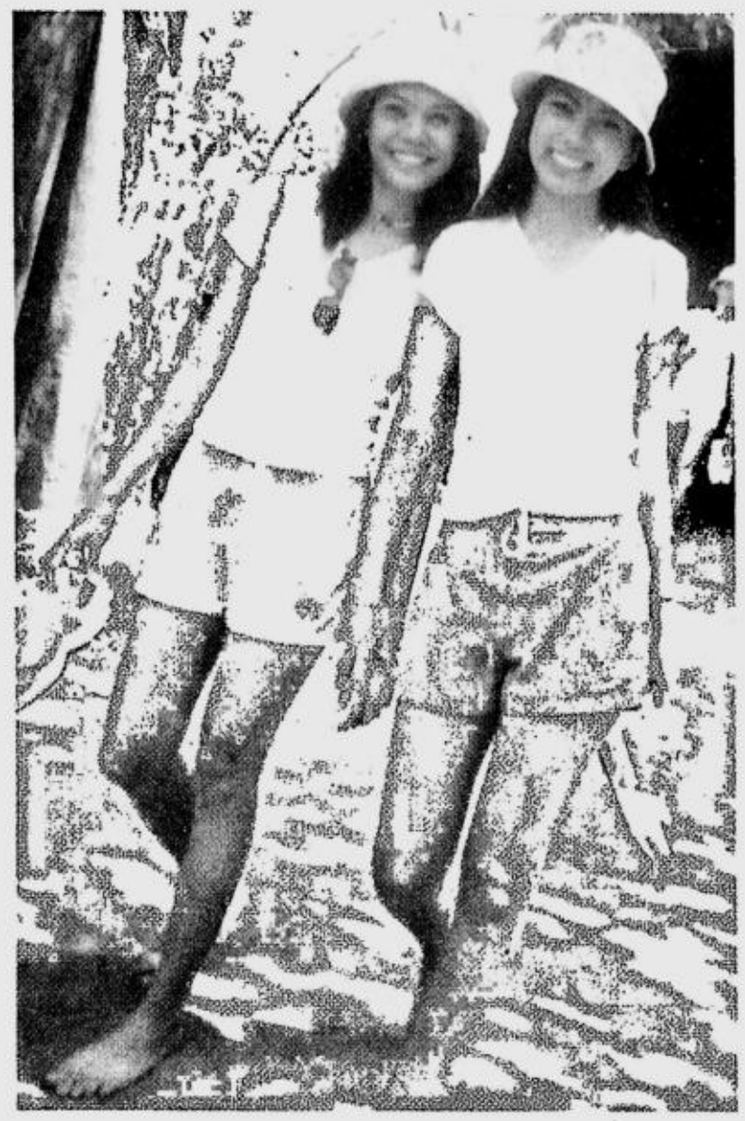
INSTRUCTOR Rachel Santiago distributes class cards to the enrollees after their five sessions


COACH Dan gives basic bowling tips to an enrollee.

The fee for bowling lessons is P2,500, which includes five sessions (one hour for each session). Also inclusive in the fee is the use of bowling lanes, rental of bowling shoes, instructional skills for practical tests. Enrollees also learn to bowl with professional coaches like Edward Coo, son of two-time world champion Bong Coo, as well as Pete Ayala and Walter Enrique Inguito.

Get bowled over and have lots of fun learning basic, advanced or competitive skills using the excellent facilities of SM Bowling Centers. The promo is offered at SM Megamall (633-7056), SM North-Edsa (929-3320), SM City Cebu (032-232-0292) and SM City Fairview until March 31.

Fun wear for Ms Cebu candidates



FOR MORE than 10 years now, Islands Souvenirs has been the leading souvenir brand favored by Filipinos and foreign visitors.

In its 100 outlets in the country plus stores in Saipan and Okinawa, Japan, Islands Souvenirs' items depict the tropical island experience, colorful festivals and cultural traditions of the Philippines.

On Jan. 17, Islands Souvenirs once again supports the government's efforts in promoting the tourism industry by being part of the Miss Cebu 2002 pageant to be held at the Waterfront Hotel Ballroom.

During a photo shoot at Plantation Bay Resort, the candidates had a great time modeling Islands Souvenirs' latest apparel and accessories. Miss Cebu 2002 also coincides with the grand "Sinulog Festival" and is expected to draw thousands of local and foreign guests to the Queen City of the South.

Telemarketing seminar set

WITH THE GROWING number of network marketing companies and the Philippines' fast-becoming the "Call Center of Asia," The Corporate Mind presents "Results-oriented Telemarketing" on Jan. 27 at the Summit Lounge of the Manila Galleria Suites on ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

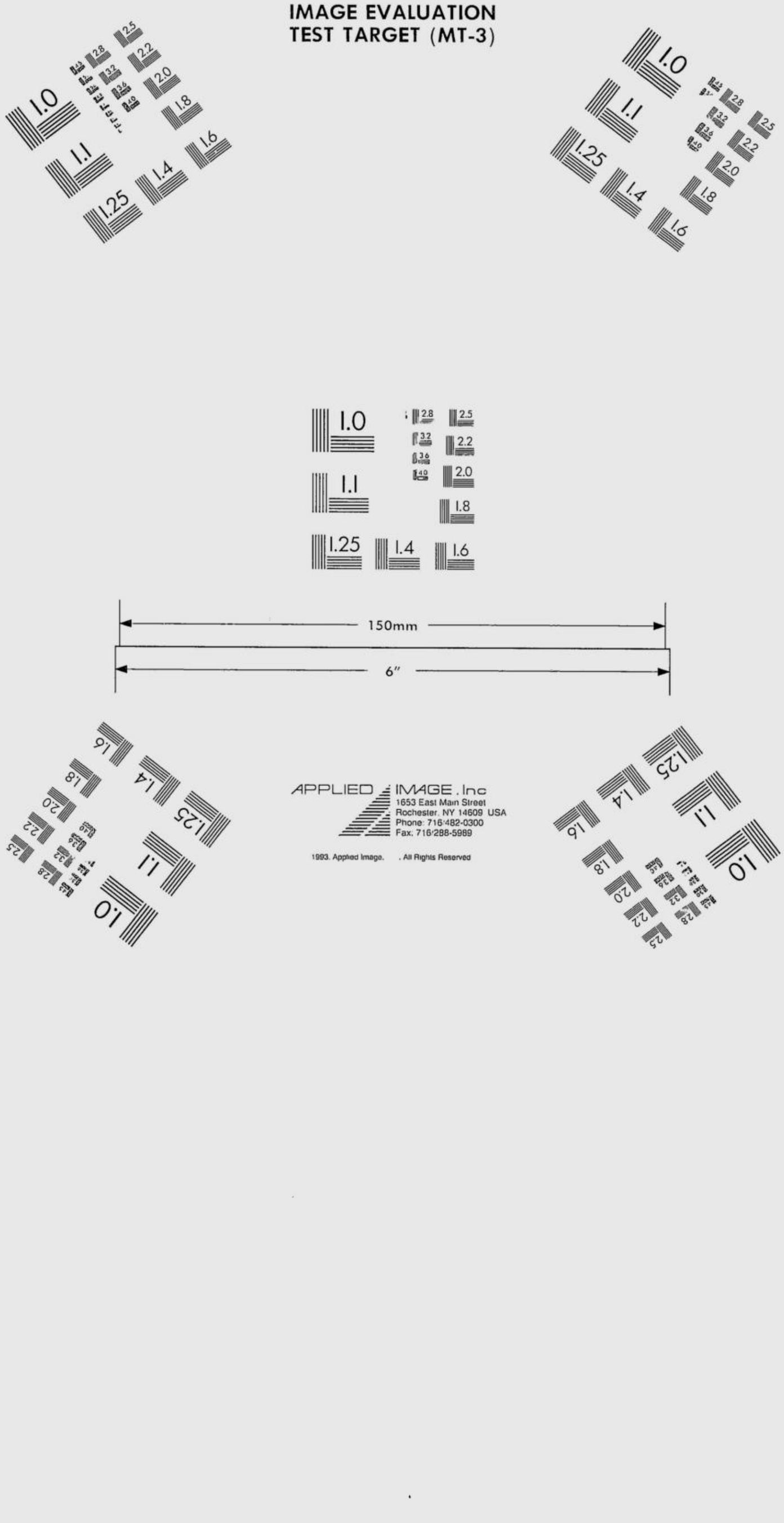
Aimed at getting the most out of marketing-related telephone communication, the one-day course covers the following topics: "Goal-setting and preparation for telephone communication," "Sounding attractive on the phone," "Telephone manners and correct expressions," "The telephone presentation" and "Pre-closing deals on the telephone."

Speaker is marketing communications consultant, real estate broker and negotiation coach Josephine Gomez.

Gomez has been conducting unique seminars for the last 10 years and is a much sought-after speaker in conventions of various socio-civic organizations and interest groups such as the Rotary Club and Toastmasters Club. She used to co-host "Information Technology on Air" on Nation Broadcasting Corp.'s dwAR.

The seminar will be held 8 a.m.-12 nn while the workshop will be at 1-5 p.m. It is open to real estate brokers, multilevel marketing businessmen, entrepreneurs, call center personnel and anyone tasked with getting results with the aid of telephone communication.

Call 687-7898 or e-mail corpmind @edsamail.com.ph.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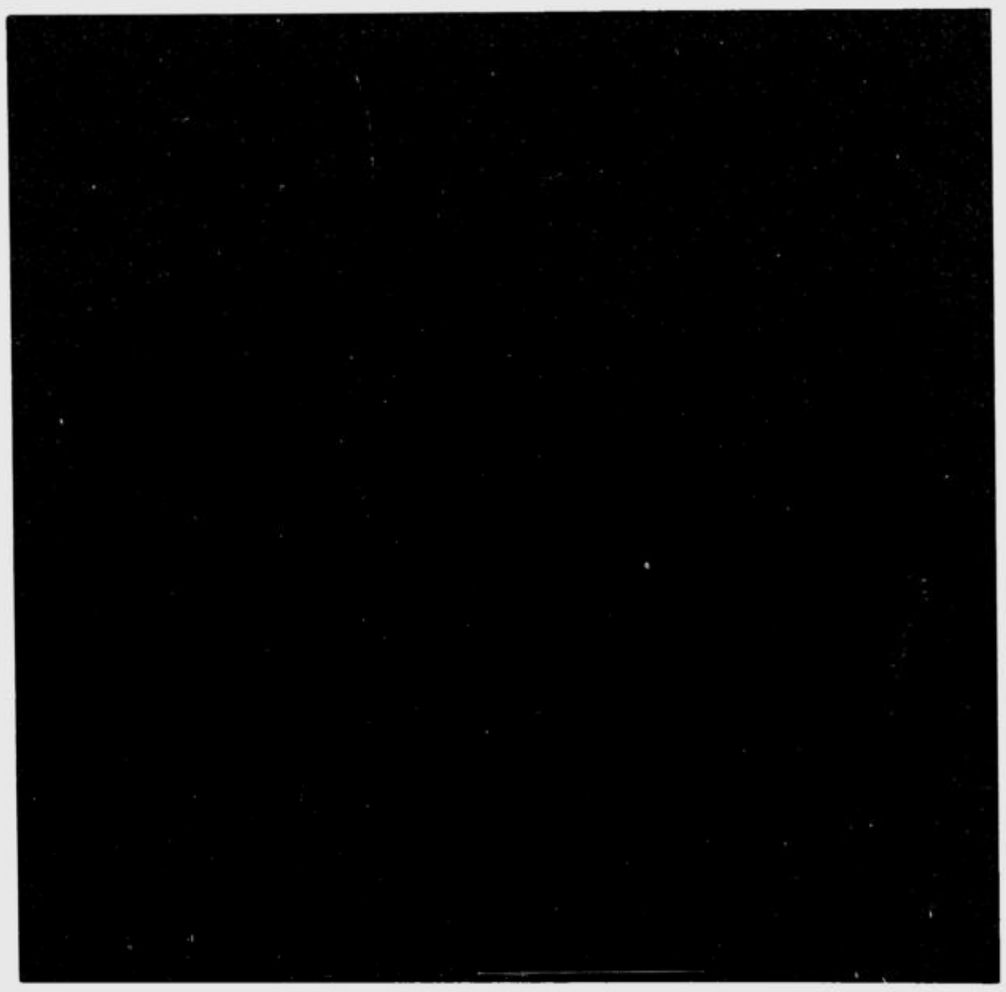

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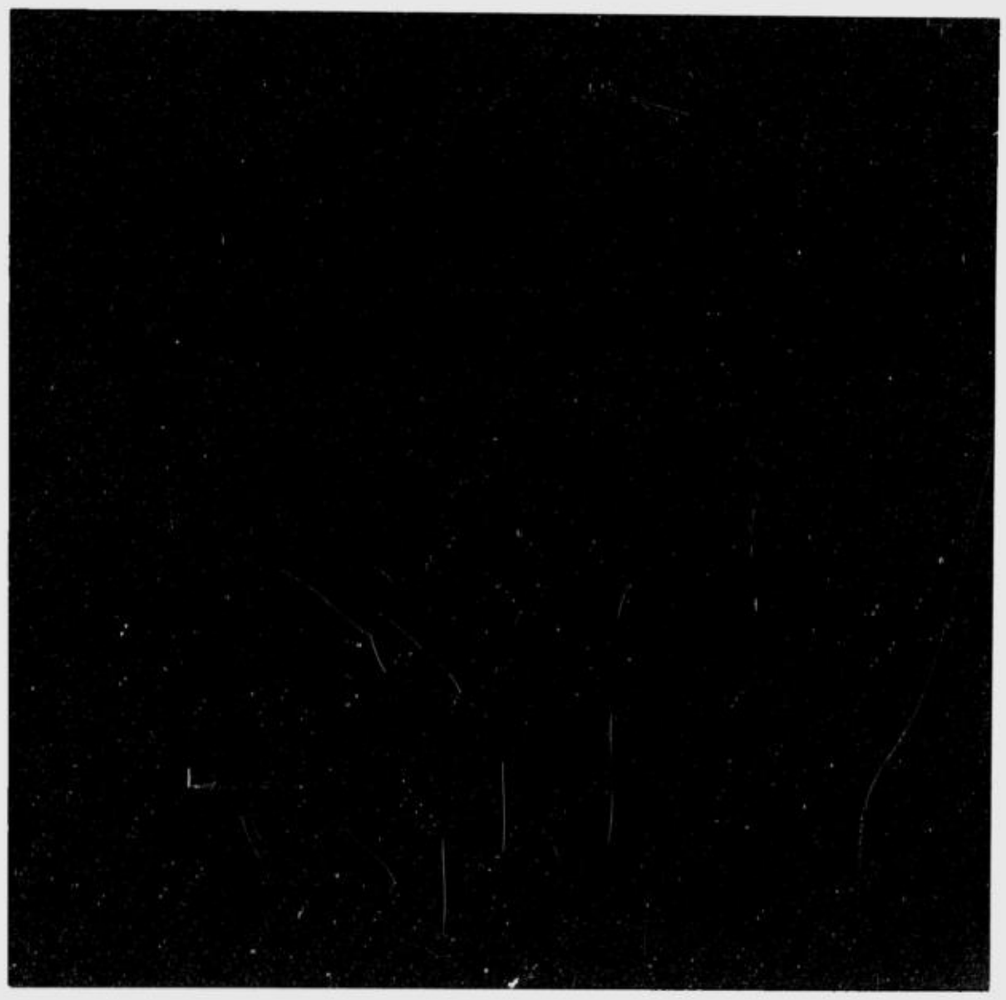
16 THRU 31
2002

REEL 277



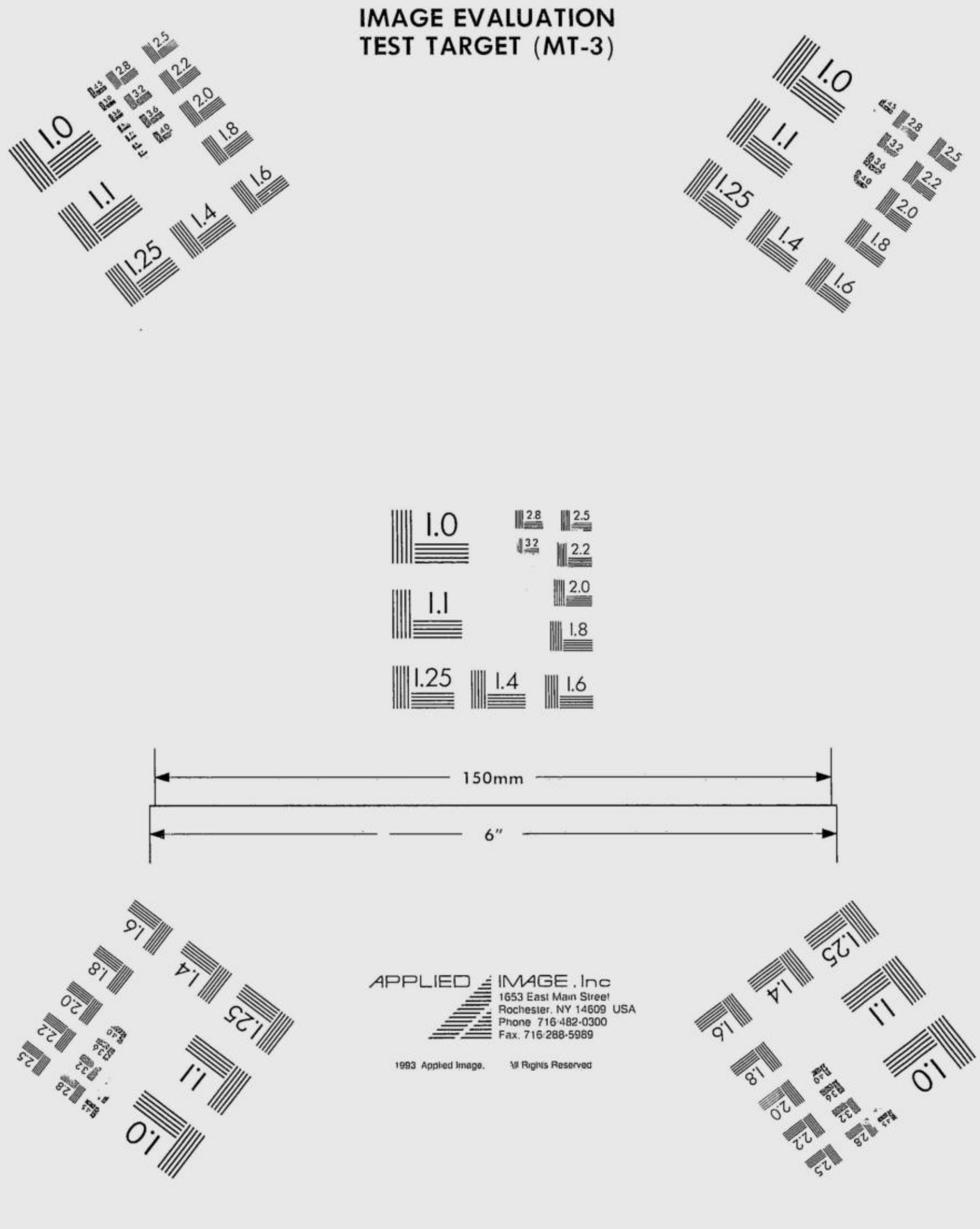


IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)
150mm
6"
APPLIED IMAGE, Inc
1653 East Main Street
Rochester, NY 14609 USA
Phone 716-482-0300
Fax 716-288-5989
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